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Trump on pause mode!

says regime change underway in Iran

From 48-hr ultimatum to 5-day pause: Trump says Washington and Tehran have had "very good talks" and strikes on Iranian energy infra are now on hold for **5 days** to allow the talks to continue; However, Iran denied any talks with Trump, calling it misinformation aimed at influencing markets

WASHINGTON

IRAN WAR DAY 25

In a significant shift in the West Asia war, President Donald Trump on Monday said the United States would pause "any and all military strikes against Iranian power plants and energy infrastructure" for five days as Tehran and Washington engage in diplomatic negotiations.

The decision comes after what he described as "very good and productive" high-level discussions between the US and Iran over the past 48 hours.

In a social media post, Trump wrote the pause on strikes against energy infrastructure came as a direct result of the "in depth, detailed, and constructive conversations. The talks "will continue throughout the week."

The pause is intended to provide a window for ongoing diplomatic talks aimed at reaching a "complete and total resolution" of hostilities in the region.

It also followed increasing unease from the US allies in the Middle East and Europe over the conflict continuing to spiral.

Trump noted that the instruction to the Department of War is contingent upon the continued success of these detailed and constructive meetings, which are scheduled to persist throughout the week.

"I am pleased to report that the United States of America and the country of Iran have had, over the last two days, very good and productive conversations regarding a complete and total resolution of our hostilities in the Middle East," Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

Trump's announcement comes hours before his 48-hour ultimatum on reopening the Strait of Hormuz is set to expire late Monday night, and Iran's military has responded by warning that it will completely close the waterway if the US proceeds with its threats.

Despite the US and Israel targeting its leadership and critical infrastructure, Iran remains defiant. The country has adopted a tit-for-tat strategy, attacking oil and energy facilities across Gulf nations and surprising the US by targeting the Diego Garcia military base, around 4,000 km from Iran. This demonstrated Tehran's missile capabilities, which the US had previously claimed were significantly reduced in its strikes.

Haven't heard from Mojtaba, don't know if he's alive: Trump

President Trump said Monday it was unclear whether Iran's new supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, is alive following reports that he was injured in the early hours of Operation Epic Fury.

"We have not heard from the son," Trump told reporters as he departed Palm Beach International Airport in South Florda for an event in Memphis, Tenn. "We don't know if he's living."

When asked if he was referring to the "supreme leader," Trump responded: "No." "[Ali] Khamenei was killed," he said. "Khamenei's son is unavailable. Nobody knows what happened to him. I can say they haven't seen him there either. Something is going on with him. But regardless, I don't consider him really the leader, but they do have some leaders left," he added.

Bombing will resume if talk fails: US Prez

Trump said Monday that "regime change" was effectively underway in Iran, while warning that if talks with Iranian figures contacted by the US do not succeed then bombing will continue. Trump made clear talks were not with Iran's new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei but with people he described as "very reasonable," while so many top officials had already been killed in the conflict that "there's automatically a regime change." If talks fail, he told reporters, "we'll just keep bombing our little hearts out."

No direct or indirect talks with US: Iran disputes Trump's claim

Tehran: A clear contradiction has emerged between Washington and Tehran after US President Donald Trump on Monday said the two countries held "very good and productive conversations," while Iran categorically denied that any such talks took place. In a post on Truth Social, Trump said the US and Iran had engaged in "in-depth, detailed, and constructive conversations" over the past two days. He also announced a five-day postponement of planned US strikes on Iranian power plants and energy infrastructure, citing the "tone and tenor" of these discussions. However, Iran's foreign ministry rejected the claim, stating there are no ongoing talks between Tehran and Washington. The statement, as reported by agencies, described Trump's remarks as part of an effort to influence energy markets and gain time. Iranian officials acknowledged that some regional countries have attempted to mediate and reduce tensions. However, Tehran maintained that it is not engaged in negotiations and that such efforts should be directed toward Washington.

Israel strikes Tehran minutes after Trump's 'pause'

Jerusalem: Less than a hour after Trump announced a 5-day pause of strikes on Iranian power plants and energy infra, the Israeli military in a social media post said it is "currently conducting strikes" across Tehran. "The Air Force has begun, a short while ago, another wave of strikes targeting infrastructure of the Iranian terror regime," the Israeli air force wrote. Earlier in the day, Trump announced in a social media post a five-day postponement of all planned military strikes against Iranian power plants and energy infrastructure. The pause is intended to provide a window for ongoing diplomatic talks aimed at reaching a "complete and total resolution" of hostilities in the region. Meanwhile, Joe Kent, the former Director of the National Counterterrorism Center who resigned on March 17, over the handling of the West Asia conflict, said the first step toward de-escalation must be restraining Israel's military actions. "Step 1 in de-escalation must be restraining the Israelis; all efforts to negotiate will follow this pattern."

Expect Covid-like unprecedented challenges: Modi

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday termed the ongoing conflict in West Asia as "worrisome", saying it had created "unprecedented" challenges for India and urging all sides to restore peace.

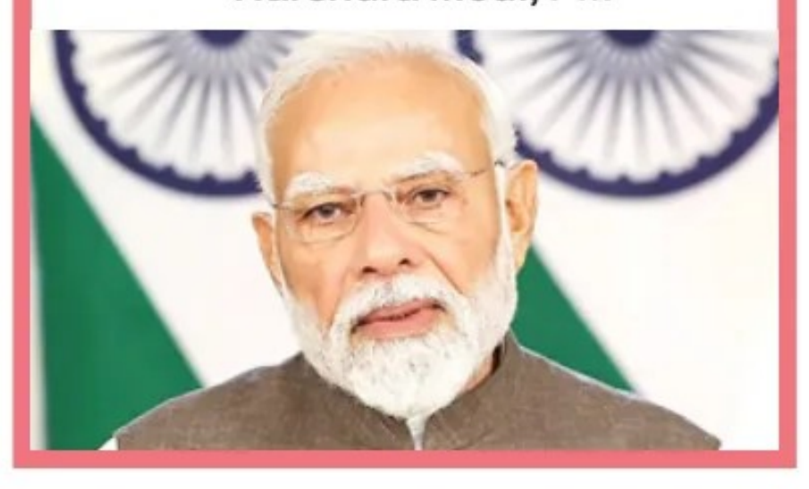
Addressing the Lok Sabha, he said the crisis has posed economic, national security and humanitarian challenges. On the energy crisis, Modi said India imports 60% of its LPG and that efforts were ongoing to prioritise domestic supply and ensure smooth petrol and diesel supply across the country, and minimise hardship for the public.

"The situation in West Asia is worrisome. This conflict has been going on for more than three weeks. It has a severe impact on the global economy and the lives of the people, and that is why the world is urging all sides for an early resolution to this conflict," Modi said.

"The government is appealing to all sides for peace. This war has created unexpected challenges for India — economic, national security and humanitarian," he added.

Modi said that cargo movement through the Strait of Hormuz has been a challenge from the beginning of the war. Despite this, the government has made efforts to ensure that the supply of petrol, diesel, and gas is not severely impacted. As we all know, the country imports 60% of its LPG requirement. Due to uncertainty in supply, the government has prioritised domestic LPG consumers.

> Dialogue and diplomacy remain the only viable path forward to resolve the crisis. Indian has reached out to all sides involved, seeking an urgent end to the West Asia conflict.
>
> —Narendra Modi, PM



Modi said India now imports energy from 41 countries, up from 27 earlier, and has built strategic petroleum reserves of over 5.3 million metric tonnes, with plans to expand this to more than 6.5 million tonnes.

India's concerns are "naturally greater" as the conflict zone is a key trade route and the region is significant given that about one crore Indians live and work in Gulf countries.

"We have always raised our voice in favour of humanity and peace, and believe that dialogue and diplomacy are the only solutions. All our efforts are aimed at reducing tensions and ending the conflict. Any threat to human life is not in the interest of humanity, and India is urging all sides to reach a peaceful resolution at the earliest," he added.

Govt restores full RoDTEP benefits to exporters

The Centre on Monday restored full benefits under the The Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme to exporters amidst the ongoing West Asia crisis disrupting global trade. Last month, the government halved the rate of duty benefits under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme. The exporting community expressed disappointment and had sought reconsideration of the decision. "The RoDTEP rates and value caps as specified...as applicable on February 22, 2026, are hereby restored with effect from February 23, 2026, to March 31, 2026, for all eligible export products," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification.

4 killed, several trapped as cold storage collapses in UP

LUCKNOW

At least four labourers were killed and dozens others feared buried under the rubble after a portion of a cold storage collapsed allegedly following a blast in an ammonia gas tank in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj district on Monday.

The number of dead could rise as six laborers were reported to be in a critical condition. The injured were admitted to the hospital. The deceased were stated to be residents of Bihar.

Reports said that the blast took place around one in the noon when the laborers were resting after lunch.

A portion of the building of the cold storage, which was situated at Chandapur village in the district, collapsed following the blast and the laborers, whose number was yet to be ascertained, were buried under the rubbles.

Rescue operations were delayed as leaked ammonia gas forced the people to keep away from the site, reports said.

Eye witnesses said that more than two dozen laborers were inside the building when the incident happened. Some of the laborers were later brought out by the NDRF and SDRF teams.

The cold storage belonged to former UP minister and Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Ansar Ahmed. Reports said that the manager and some others, members of Ahmed's family, were detained by the police for questioning.

Uttar Pradesh government has announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs two lakh each to the next of the kin of the deceased and Rs 50 thousand each to the injured. A magisterial probe was ordered into the incident.

Only God can save Karnataka: Gowda

BENGALURU

Slamming the Congress-ruled Karnataka government for its 'negligence' toward the industrial sector, former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda on Monday urged the Modi government to take steps to revive industries in the state.

Participating in the discussion on the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) in the Rajya Sabha, the Janata Dal (Secular) leader said he was "not a power-hungry politician" and had rejected demands by some that his party be merged with another.

He also appealed to members of various parties not to attack the Prime Minister over the LPG shortage, stating that only Prime Minister Narendra Modi could guide the world on how the West Asia crisis should be resolved.

Urging the Prime Minister to take steps to revive industry in Karnataka, Gowda said, "Do something for Karnataka. Don't worry about this Karnataka government."Referring to the state of affairs in Karnataka, he added, "How things are going in going in Karnataka, only God will save Karnataka. Save the country through the leadership of our great leader Narendra Modi sahab."

QUICK READ

Pilots killed as plane collides with truck

NEW YORK: An Air Canada Express plane with about 76 people on board hit the ground vehicle at New York's LaGuardia airport late on Sunday, in an incident that closed the airport. As per reports, pilot and co-pilot were killed in the accident. According to flight tracking website FlightRadar24, the plane was flying from Montreal and collided with a ground vehicle upon landing in New York. The plane, which was coming from Montreal, struck the vehicle at a speed of about 24 miles per hour (39 kph).

'Clerical error'? BJP's seal on EC letter triggers row

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A letter from the Election Commission was found carrying the seal of the BJP Kerala unit, prompting sharp reactions from the CPI(M) and the Congress, following which a political row erupted on Monday. CPI(M) flagged the issue on X, sharing an affidavit attached to a March 19, 2019 letter sent to political parties in the country that bore the BJP Kerala seal instead of the EC's official seal. Reacting to it, the EC said it was "purely a clerical error" and had been "rectified immediately."

ESPIONAGE

Massive Pak-linked spy network busted in UP; 22 held

GHAZIABAD

What began as a routine intelligence input at Ghaziabad's Kaushambi police station on March 14 has now unfolded into one of the most serious espionage cases in recent times. It first looked like a group of youths indulging in "suspicious activities". But it has revealed itself as an organised module operating under direct instruction from handlers across the border in Pakistan.

At least 22 people have been arrested so far. Several minors were also involved in the chain, and the network was neither local nor amateur.

Police moved in quickly after the initial alert that said youths in Uttar Pradesh's Bhovapur were taking photos and videos of railway stations and military bases and sending them abroad. The lure was money. They were told to recruit more youths in order to earn more.

Six accused - five men and a woman - were arrested in the first sweep by the police. Their phones carried material that changed the direction of the investigation. Galleries filled with videos, photographs, location tags and installations connected to the military. There were also railway nodes and camp perimeters, which were enough evidence to confirm that a structured operation was underway, not just a neighbourhood hustle.

A special investigation team (SIT) was formed immediately including personnel of Indirapuram Police, Crime Branch, cyber crime, intelligence, and SWAT. The interrogation of the arrested accused began on March 17, after which the SIT found the command structure quickly. They have been identified as Suhail Malik, Naushad Ali and Sameer alias Shooter, all operating from Pakistan.

Their recruitment pipeline ran through social media and encrypted messaging apps. The instructions were specific like which railway stations to film, which perimeters to map, what angles to shoot, and when to send coordinates.

The payments ranged from Rs 5,000 to Rs 20,000 per 'assignment'. These amounts are small enough to blend in but large enough to lure vulnerable youths.

Four of the six arrested accused had travelled to Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama earlier. There, they sent sensitive intelligence back to Pakistan. Investigators now believe the network was part of preparations for a second large-scale attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

QUICK READ

Brahma Rathotsava, Folklore Fair held

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Brahma Rathotsava and Folklore Fair of the historic Ramachandraswamy in Ramohalli, South Taluk of Bangalore was held with great pomp and ceremony. housands of devotees witnessed this. The Rathotsava was inaugurated by offering prayers to the idols of Ramachandraswamy, Anjaneya, Sita, Lakshmana, Bharata, and Shatrughan. The devotees pulled the chariot with shouts of joy and danced and threw flowers and bananas at it. Folk artists performing Puja Kunita and Pattada Kunita accompanied the chariot. MLA ST Somashekhar, State Vokkaligara Sangha ex-president D Hanumanthaiah among others were present.

Locals question cops' silence on nuisance by drunkard

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A drunkard has been harassing the public daily in a layout under Talaghattapura police station limits. The local residents have lost their peace of mind due to his madness and rowdyism. His daily routine includes speeding cars, using obscene language in public places and verbally abusing anyone he encounters. Recently, he had also assaulted a local resident with his hand. Though three FIRs have already been registered against the man, local residents are angry that the Talaghattapura police are not taking any drastic action. Residents have questioned when will his harassment and nuisance come to an end.

Youth spends ₹4.45L with stolen mobile, held

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

An FIR has been registered against a youth in Koramangala for allegedly stealing his roommate's mobile phone and spending lakhs of rupees online. A complaint has been lodged at the Koramangala police station in connection with the loss of lakhs of rupees. Chintan Arora was living in a room with Naveen Vemula. Chintan, who had been sleeping with his mobile phone till late last Friday night, was shocked by the morning. When he woke up in the morning, his roommate Naveen was also missing along with Chintan's mobile phone. Chintan immediately checked his account and found the he had lost Rs 4.45 lakh. Since he was in the room, Naveen knew Chintan's mobile passwords.

B'luru cops raise alarm as cyber fraud empire expands

With online fraud cases rising rapidly, city police launch an online campaign, warning citizens against fake WhatsApp and Telegram investment schemes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Amid a steady rise in cyber crime cases, the police in Bengaluru have stepped up efforts to alert citizens and prevent online fraud. Authorities have begun a focused awareness campaign, especially on social media platforms, to educate people about increasing digital scams.

As part of this initiative, the Bengaluru City Police have released alert-style advertisements highlighting the dangers of fraudulent investment schemes circulating on platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram. These scams often lure individuals with promises of high returns, eventually cheating them of their money.

Police officials have specifically warned the public to remain cautious about unknown investment offers shared through social media or messaging apps. The campaign aims to ensure that people do not fall prey to such fake schemes, which are increasingly targeting unsuspecting users.

In case of any cyber fraud, citizens have been strongly advised to immediately report the incident by calling the national cyber crime helpline number 1930. This quick response can help authorities take timely action and possibly prevent further financial loss.

The awareness drive is being carried out across all divisions of the city, using multiple communication methods to reach a wider audience. The initiative has been launched following directions from Seemanth Kumar Singh, who has instructed officials to intensify public outreach on cyber safety.

The operation is being actively handled by the Social Media Cell of the city police, which is working to spread clear and simple messages online to educate users about various types of cyber fraud.

With cyber crimes evolving in new forms, police are focusing on preventive awareness as a key strategy to protect citizens from financial scams and digital threats.

K-Ride report flags low survival of trees moved for BSRP - 2

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

When the removal of thousands of trees for the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) faced criticism from activists, the authorities vouched for transplanting as a remedy. But over three years down the line, less than half the trees replanted for Corridor 2 show signs of survival.

The tree translocation quarterly report published by Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-Ride), the implementing agency of the project, earlier this month revealed that only 125 trees out of the 279 trees transplanted until December 2025 had survived.

The trees were removed from their original locations following five official memoranda from the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) between December 2022 and July 2025.

Except for the 12 trees translocated in 2025, the remaining 267 were planted around Yeshwantpur, within the CQAE Yeshwantpur Campus, Railway Colony, and quarters. Among the tree varieties translocated were mahogany, tore matti, jamun, hebbevu, honge, raintree, benjamina, and sandal.

Interestingly, during the last such translocation carried out in September 2025, all 12 trees did not show any signs of survival, with seasonal variations also contributing to this. This particular transplantation was done by an agency engaged by Bangalore Development Authority (BDA).

This is the first quarter following the translocation of trees in NPK Layout. The translocated trees will be monitored across all four seasons to assess their survival rate. All 12 trees were translocated. During this quarter, none of the trees showed survival symptoms due to translocation shock and seasonal variation, the report stated.

Avoid cutting them, Ecologist Harini Nagendra told, basically, what you do is cut the roots and the branches while transporting, and then you pull them out of the soil and put them into the new soil. That whole process is for them to grow the roots and shoots again, and become accustomed to the new environment. She also stressed that the first option should always be to avoid cutting trees, and the translocation process does not guarantee success despite consuming a lot of money.

City-based civic activist Rajkumar Duggar expressed shock over the survival figures. I'm really shocked at these figures; we wasted so much time and money on this. Even 95 percent survival is a failure, as you are losing a significant number of trees. K-RIDE should drop this idea of transplanting, he opined.

K-RIDE, however, maintained that tree translocation involves inherent biological risks, and survival largely depends on species characteristics, root adaptability, seasonal conditions, and post-translocation stress factors. Most of the trees translocated were mature ones and a few species that do not adapt to translocation. The trees that were indigenous and young survived uprooting and translocation. Initially, 45–50 percent was the survival rate, but with the application of hormones and medicines and a scientific method of translocation, the survival rate has now gone up to 60–65 percent, a K-RIDE official said.

'3,260 compensatory trees planted'

The implementing agency also added that a total of 3,260 compensatory trees were planted on the GKVK campus, with maintenance activities, including watering, protection, and periodic monitoring, undertaken by the Greater Bengaluru Authority's forest wing.

St Patrick's Day celebrated with focus on India-Ireland ties

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Honorary Consul General of Ireland and Chairperson of BIOCON, and Kevin Kelly, Ambassador of Ireland to India, hosted the 25th consecutive annual St Patrick's Day celebration.

The occasion recalled the legacy of St Patrick, Ireland's patron saint, a fifth-century missionary known for spreading Christianity across the country after returning from captivity, and founding churches, schools, and monasteries. The event also highlighted the deepening partnership between India and Ireland across culture, education, innovation, technology, and trade. Mazumdar-Shaw said St Patrick's Day celebrations in Bengaluru serve as a joyful reminder amid global turmoil that we are all one, united in celebrating humanity.

St Patrick's Day is about bonhomie, merriment and enjoyment, she said. She recalled BIOCON owes its origins to Ireland. My Biocon journey was sparked by an Irish biotech entrepreneur, she said. It is important for us to acknowledge the presence of Irish IT and startup companies in Bengaluru. Indian companies have also invested significantly in Ireland, she said.

Kelly traced the journey of St Patrick of England, who moved to Ireland as a slave. Many older Indians know about Ireland. They have heard stories of Irish revolutionaries, he said. The Irish government is now actively trying to create a deeper action plan for strengthening engagement with India. Ireland is one of 27 EU countries, but we account for 10 percent of the total EU trade with India, nearly €16 billion, and there's so much more we can do. We are also looking at partnerships between universities and Supreme Courts in Dublin and in New Delhi. Moreover, we are strengthening our political links. There has been a real uptick in our relationships, Kelly said, adding the Irish Prime Minister plans to visit India in 2027, and Bengaluru, hopefully, will be there on his itinerary. True to its tradition, St Patrick's Day was marked by wearing green and enjoying Irish food and music.

Traffic diversions around Freedom Park in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Motorists mat face traffic diversions and congestion around Freedom Park as large-scale protests are planned till March 25, with participants and vehicles likely to converge via Seshadri Road.

Police have urged public to plan their travel in advance and use alternative routes.

Diversions advised: From Shanthala Jn and Khoday Circle towards Anand Rao Flyover / Seshadri Road / Freedom Park. Motorists are advised to take routes via Lulu Mall Road, KFM Road, Rajiv Gandhi Circle, Mantri Mall Road, Swastik Circle, Seshadripuram, Nehru Circle, Race Course Flyover, and Race Course Road. From Mysore Bank side towards Basaveshwara Circle, suggested diversion is through KG Road, Mysore Bank Junction, Sagar Junction, KG Junction, Tank Bund Road, KFM Road, Rajiv Gandhi Circle, Swastik Circle, Nehru Circle, and Race Course Flyover Road. From Basaveshwara Circle towards Mysore Bank, commuters can proceed via Basaveshwara Circle, Raj Bhavan Road, and Infantry Road.

'Additional 1K commercial cylinders supplied'

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Hotel owners have got good news. Minister KH Muniyappa said that an additional 1,000 commercial cylinders will be supplied in the state.

Minister Muniyappa held a meeting with gas companies and hotel associations today. Additional commercial cylinders will be supplied in the state. With the addition of 1,000 cylinders, a total of 10,000 cylinders will be supplied. Commercial gas users must register compulsorily. It is mandatory to register with the GAIL company. They must register within a week. The minister said that this measure has been taken to prevent illegality.

'Playgrounds to remain mandatory for colleges'

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

While debate grows over the Centre's proposal to ease provisions making it mandatory for educational institutions to have playgrounds as part of an Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) push, Higher Education Minister MC Sudhakar insisted the clause will stay.

Under the deregulation proposal, the state govt may be empowered to ease or relax several requirements for private higher education institutions through official notification. These include minimum land requirements, whether purchased, rented or leased, needed to set up private universities or colleges. The proposal allows relaxation of infrastructure norms such as playgrounds, laboratories, equipment, classroom sizes, built-up areas, computers, libraries and book requirements.

He said National Assessment and Accreditation Council inspects sports facilities, and our educational institutes will stand to lose out if we remove the clause making playgrounds mandatory. He said even the state government mandates playgrounds. For instance, when institutes approach the department for additional intake permissions, we mandate that 1.5 acres of land be set aside for sports. This has been a rule for at least seven years.

Some institutes build new campuses, while others shift to larger spaces. But, without additional land for sports, requests for increased intake are refused. Meanwhile, the Urban Development Department is examining a proposal from the Centre, which identifies 23 priority areas and five optional areas for deregulation.

BJP sets up teams for Bengaluru civic polls

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

BJP has set up teams of its functionaries to oversee the upcoming elections to the five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

A 12-member team, headed by state BJP President BY Vijayendra, consists of MPs from the city, Union Minister V Somanna, and leaders of the opposition in the legislative assembly and council. Two MLAs, S Suresh Kumar and CN Ashwath Narayan have made it to the team.

The party has also formed one team each for the five city corporations and appointed a leader in charge of each of the 27 assembly constituencies in Bengaluru coming under GBA.

The Bengaluru Central city corporation team is headed by MLC CT Ravi. The Bengaluru West city corporation team is the largest, with 10 members, headed by opposition leader R Ashoka. The teams for other corporations consist of 4-6 members.

HERITAGE PROTECTION

K'taka HC allows limited works at Roerich estate, modifies earlier ban

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Green activists opposing the proposed mega eco-tourism project at the Roerich and Devika Rani Roerich Estate on the city's southern outskirts suffered a setback after High Court granted partial relief to the state government earlier this week.

Softening its earlier direction barring all development activity, the court has now allowed limited works in the estate's non-forest areas.

In January 2026, while hearing a PIL petition filed by the RR Nagar I Care Trust, the court had directed both the state and central governments to ensure no development at the estate. The petition challenged a December 2024 notification approving an eco-tourism and cultural hub project. During the latest hearing, the state submitted that the central funds would lapse by March 31, if work remained stalled.

Some of the works as part of the project do not even require diversion of forest land in any manner, the government argued, while also seeking permission for landscaping and basic infrastructure work. It also told the court that high footfall necessitated the construction of toilets. Otherwise, this would result in the pollution of waterbodies located on the estate, the government said. Citing frequent wildlife movement, it also proposed an elephant barricade and boundary wall, maintaining that these would not involve forest land diversion.

Accepting the plea, the court observed, In the aforesaid circumstances, we consider it apposite to modify the interim order to permit certain developments at this stage. The interim order shall not apply to the construction of the entrance plaza, toilets, borewells, elephant barricades, boundary wall, and a landscaped garden. However, the respondents shall ensure that not a single tree is cut or damaged in the process. It added that all works will remain subject to the final outcome of the petition.

Forest officials confirmed the incident but declined to elaborate. Sources said the forest department has consented to barricading around 150 acres, estimating costs between Rs 2.5 crore and Rs 3 crore. However, experts warn this could disrupt an already stressed elephant corridor. A conservationist working in the Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) landscape said the 470-acre estate forms part of a key corridor linking BNP with Savanadurga forests. Hundreds of elephants move every year through this corridor in search of food and water.

QUICK READ

Youth drowns while bathing in Tungabhadra River

Raichur

A 22-year-old man, Aman Khan of Ganga Nagar, Sindhanur, drowned in the Tungabhadra River near Mukkunda village on Sunday evening. He had gone to the river with friends and jumped in for a bath around 4 pm. Unable to swim, he moved into deeper water and started struggling. Friends reportedly filmed the incident. Locals and fishermen rescued him, but he was pronounced dead. Sindhanur Rural Police have registered a case and are investigating.

Preparatory meeting scheduled for Jayanti celebrations

Vijayapur

A meeting will be held on March 24 to plan the 119th birth anniversary of Babu Jagjivan Ram and the 135th of B. R. Ambedkar. The session starts at 11:00 am in the District Collector's office hall under the Deputy Commissioner's leadership. The celebrations are set for April 5, 2026. The Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department has urged dignitaries, community leaders, and officials to attend and help ensure the event's success.

Youth dies after hitting rock while filming reel

Sindhanur

A 22-year-old man, Aman Khan of Ganga Nagar, Sindhanur, died after hitting his head on a submerged rock while filming a social media reel in a river near Mukkunda village on Sunday evening. Aman had gone with three friends and jumped into the water for the video. He sustained fatal injuries and died on the spot. His body was taken to Sindhanur government hospital. Police have registered a case and are investigating.

Preserve groundwater for posterity: ZP CEO

Officials should maintain water source hygiene, ensure chlorination, and prevent contamination, especially in rural belt

KALBURAGI

Emphasizing the importance of water conservation, Zilla Panchayat CEO Bhanwar Singh Meena urged citizens to use water judiciously and adopt rainwater harvesting practices to maintain groundwater levels for future generations.

He was speaking after inaugurating the World Water Day–2026 programme organized jointly by the Zilla Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat, and Nandikur Gram Panchayat in Kalaburagi on Sunday.

Highlighting that water is a vital natural resource and a national asset, Meena stressed the need to prevent wastage in daily life. He called upon people to ensure that water is not unnecessarily wasted from taps and to adopt conservation methods at both household and community levels. During the programme, practical demonstrations were given on constructing soak pits at the household level and leach pits, recharge pits, and rooftop rainwater harvesting systems at the community level. Meena stated that several initiatives are being implemented in the district to promote water literacy, groundwater conservation, and sustainable water management.

He also directed officials to ensure cleanliness of all water sources, including lakes, wells, and borewells, especially in rural areas. Warning against negligence, he said concerned officials would be held responsible for any mishaps caused by contaminated drinking water.

He further instructed that proper hygiene be maintained around overhead tanks, pipelines, and borewells. Measures such as chlorination and the use of bleaching powder must be undertaken regularly to ensure safe drinking water. Strict steps should be taken to prevent drainage water from entering borewells, he added. In view of the summer season, Meena directed officials to promptly address any disruptions in water supply and arrange tanker supply if necessary. He noted that five government tankers are available with the Zilla Panchayat for emergency use.

Water quality testing drive launched

On the occasion, a water quality testing campaign was also launched using field test kits. Water samples from RO plants, borewells, taps, and wells in Nandikur village were tested, and the results were explained to the public. Officials were instructed to conduct regular water quality checks before and after the monsoon and to arrange alternative water sources if contamination is detected. Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Lakhan Shringeri, Assistant Secretary Revanasiddappa, Executive Engineer Jagadevappa Jeevanagi of the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, PDO Sandeep Guttedar, and other staff were present.

War crisis hits Kottur Mutt prasad distribution

KOTTUR

The ongoing global tensions involving the US, Iran, and Israel have impacted not only industries but also religious institutions in Karnataka. The famous Sukshetra Guru Kottureshwara Swamy Mutt in Kottur, Vijayanagar district, is facing difficulties in preparing anna prasadam for devotees due to a shortage of LPG cylinders.

For the past two weeks, the mutt kitchen has been relying entirely on wood stoves to cook prasad. Rajappa, a kitchen assistant, said the shortage has made daily cooking challenging and appealed for cylinders to continue serving devotees efficiently. The temple management has adapted by using wooden fuel to ensure that prasad is still distributed, but the process is slower and more labor-intensive.

The cylinder shortage, triggered by wider geopolitical tensions, has affected many institutions that depend on LPG for daily operations. Devotees visiting the mutt have noticed changes in prasad preparation, highlighting how even sacred spaces are feeling the ripple effects of international conflicts.

Temple authorities and staff are hopeful that supplies will be restored soon so they can resume normal cooking operations and maintain their traditional services for devotees. Meanwhile, they continue to manage with alternative methods, showing resilience despite the challenges. The situation reflects the wider impact of global crises on local communities and emphasizes the need for contingency planning in essential services.

The LPG cylinder shortage, caused by global tensions, has disrupted daily operations at many institutions, including temples, affecting prasad preparation and showing how sacred spaces face impacts of international conflicts.

Illegal sand transport: 20 vehicles deregistered

YADGIRI

In a strong move to curb illegal sand transportation and sale, the district administration and police have initiated action to cancel the registration of vehicles involved in such activities in Yadgir district.As per directions from Deputy Commissioner Harshal Bhoyar and Superintendent of Police Prithvik Shankar, a total of 20 vehicles have had their registrations cancelled since January this year. The vehicles include three JCB machines, four tippers, and 13 tractors. Officials have ensured that these vehicles will not be allowed to operate on roads for a minimum of three months, with necessary action taken through the Regional Transport Office (RTO).Further, the police have recommended cancellation of registration for an additional 40 to 50 vehicles involved in illegal sand activities, SP Prithvik Shankar said.

He clarified that the strict action is aimed at sending a strong message to those engaged in the illegal sand mafia and to deter such unlawful practices in the district. Authorities have reiterated their commitment to continuing the crackdown to protect natural resources and enforce the law effectively.

Pedestrian space 'encroached' near Satellite Bus Stand

VIJAYAPUR

Pedestrians are facing severe inconvenience near the Satellite Bus Stand in Vijayapur due to the lack of proper walking space, with footpaths reportedly encroached and littered with garbage.

A visit to the area reveals that the already narrow footpath has been further reduced by roadside shops, temporary structures, and improperly placed signboards. In several stretches, pedestrians are forced to walk on the main road, putting their safety at risk amid heavy traffic. The situation is worsened by heaps of garbage, construction debris, and waste dumped along the walkway. In some places, broken tiles and scattered bricks make it difficult for people, especially elderly citizens and children, to walk safely.

Local residents and commuters have expressed concern over the unhygienic conditions and lack of maintenance. "There is no proper space to walk. We are forced to use the road, which is dangerous due to continuous vehicle movement," said a daily commuter. The presence of closed shops with garbage piled up in front, along with unauthorized extensions by vendors, has further blocked pedestrian movement. Despite being a busy public area near a major transport hub, the footpath remains neglected.

Citizens have urged the municipal authorities to take immediate action by clearing encroachments, ensuring regular cleaning, and restoring the footpath for safe pedestrian use. The issue highlights the urgent need for better urban planning and stricter enforcement to ensure public spaces remain accessible and safe for all.

Over 20,000 tourists visited Almatti during festivals, prompting police, KSF, and forest staff to ensure safety and smooth management

Ramzan rush: Almatti sees heavy tourist footfall

VIJAYAPUR

In the backdrop of the Ramzan celebrations, Almatti witnessed a massive influx of tourists on Sunday, the day following the festival. All major parks in the area were crowded, with a sea of visitors seen everywhere.Popular gardens including Rock Garden, Krishna Garden, Lav-Kush Garden, and Mughal Garden were filled to capacity with tourists enjoying the festive outing.

Post-Festival Surge a Common Trend

According to Forest Department staff managing the parks, a spike in tourist numbers on the day after major festivals has become a regular occurrence. In anticipation, adequate arrangements were made this year as well. Under the leadership of KBJNL Executive Engineer Tarasingh Doddamani, a preparatory meeting was held and staff were deployed accordingly...Scenes of joy and celebration were visible across the area, with families and groups engaging in games, leisure activities, and entertainment. The water amusement park and boating facilities also saw overwhelming crowds.

Tight Security Arrangements

Considering that more than 20,000 tourists visit Almatti during festive occasions every year, precautionary measures were taken. Under the supervision of the Basavan Bagewadi DYSP, around 60 police personnel, a DR vehicle team, and over 60 KSF personnel led by Assistant Commandant Eerappa Vali were deployed. Additionally, more than 200 daily wage workers from the Forest Department, under the guidance of DFO N.K. Bagayat, were assigned duties.These arrangements ensured smooth entry for visitors, availability of basic amenities, and proper parking facilities.

Brisk Business for Vendors

The heavy footfall brought smiles to local vendors. Shops selling cold drinks, ice creams, snacks like chakli, papdi, chips, sugarcane juice, water bottles, and rice bath reported brisk sales. Instant photo printing services and sellers of park photographs also witnessed good business.

Tourist Rush Across Vijayapura

Meanwhile, other major tourist attractions in Vijayapura, such as the iconic Gol Gumbaz and the historic Ibrahim Rauza, also experienced a significant rise in visitors during the festive period.

ENTRANCE PLA A

Farmers' stir win: Govt drops Phase -II land acquisition

YADGIRI

In a major relief to farmers, the State Government has withdrawn the second phase of land acquisition for the Kadechur–Badiyal industrial area following sustained protests by locals in Yadgir district. Responding to the farmers' united stand—"We will give up our lives but not our land"—the government issued an order cancelling the proposed acquisition, bringing cheer to residents across several villages in the region.

The acquisition was part of the Hyderabad–Bengaluru Industrial Corridor project. In September 2021, a notification had been issued to acquire 3,269.29 acres of land in Kadechur, Shettihalli Daddal, and Rachanahalli villages for setting up industries, including a proposed bulk drug park. However, the project did not progress as planned.Strong opposition from farmers, including continuous protests, petitions, and pressure on public representatives, ultimately led to the government reconsidering its decision.

MLA Kandakur's Role Praised...

Locals have credited Sharangouda Kandakur, MLA of Gurumitkal constituency, for playing a key role in halting the land acquisition process.

Kandakur had repeatedly raised the issue in the Assembly, questioning the need for further acquisition when 3,232 acres of land acquired in 2011 still remains underutilized. He also highlighted concerns over pollution caused by existing industries in the area and the hardships faced by residents.He pointed out that due to the proposed acquisition, farmers' land records were put on hold, causing difficulties in land sales, bank loans, and property transactions. Reacting to the government's decision, Kandakur said he welcomes the move taken in the interest of the people. However, he asserted that the fight against polluting industries will continue both inside and outside the legislature. "Ensuring a clean environment and providing employment opportunities to youth is my dream," he added.

VISION, DEDICATION, LEADERSHIP

Edu revolution in Vijayapura: A successful transition from state syllabus to CBSE

VIJAYAPUR

In a significant milestone for the city's academic landscape, Ravindranath Tagore School and College, functioning under the prestigious Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Education Society, has achieved CBSE affiliation, marking a new chapter in its journey. Founded under the visionary guidance and blessings of late Vasant Gaikwad, the institution has witnessed remarkable growth over the past 25 years. What began with just 150 students has now expanded into a thriving educational hub with over 1,400 students.The current president, Shivaji Gaikwad, has played a pivotal role in this transformation. An engineering graduate who chose to leave a promising career in Bengaluru, he dedicated himself entirely to the field of education. His vision, commitment, and passion have elevated the institution to new heights.Over the years, thousands of students from the institution have gone on to excel in fields such as medicine, government services, law, and engineering, bringing pride and recognition to the school.Until now, CBSE education remained a distant dream for many middle-class families in Vijayapura. With persistent efforts by Shivaji Gaikwad, quality CBSE education is now accessible in the heart of the city, making a significant difference in the educational opportunities available to students.The achievement was further strengthened by the support of Principal Abhijit Gaikwad, along with the encouragement and contribution of Rita Madam, wife of Shivaji Gaikwad.

HELPLINES
Sensory Activity
103
TRAFFIC POLIC
101
FIRE STATION
108
MEDICAL HELPLINE
102
AMBULANCE
100
POLICE
HELPLINES

A Leader's Determination Lighting Thousands of Futures

Education forms the backbone of society, and it takes committed individuals to strengthen that foundation. Shivaji Gaikwad stands as one such inspiring figure. Transforming an ordinary school into a leading educational institution is no small feat. However, with unwavering determination, hard work, and dedication to education, he has made it possible.By giving up a secure job in Bengaluru to serve students in his hometown, he has become a beacon of hope for thousands of families. The CBSE affiliation is not just a recognition—it is a gateway for students to compete at the national level.Making such opportunities accessible to middle-class students in Vijayapura is truly commendable.

As an educationist, mentor, and social contributor, Shivaji Gaikwad's journey continues to inspire many. This achievement is not just a milestone but a guiding light for future generations.The community now looks forward to even greater accomplishments as the institution continues to grow under his leadership.

QUICK READ

Uncertainty Looms Over Road Widening Project

KOTENAGARI

The proposed widening of the busy BD Road, which runs through the heart of Kotenagari, was once seen as a crucial step toward easing traffic congestion and improving urban infrastructure. However, recent developments suggest that the momentum behind the project has slowed considerably. District incharge Minister D. Sudhakar, who had previously stated that the road widening work was complete, has remained silent on the matter, further adding to public confusion. Earlier, the district administration had announced plans to widen the stretch from Challakere Gate to Kanaka Circle in two phases. A formal proposal had also been submitted to the government for approval. Both Minister D. Sudhakar and MLA K.C. Veerendra had emphasized the necessity of the project, assuring the public that the expansion was inevitable.

Integrated Farming Training Program to Be Held

HIRIYUR

The training program will take place at the District Agricultural Training Center located at Babbur Farm in Hiriyur. Organizers have made arrangements to provide free accommodation for participating farmers, ensuring wider participation from across the region. The program is designed to promote integrated farming methods that combine various agricultural activities for better resource utilization and sustainability. On the first day, March 24, experienced farmer Indudhara will share insights on effective water and nutrient management in organic farming. His session is expected to guide farmers on reducing input costs while maintaining soil health and crop yield.

4 Killed in Early Morning Bus Crash on B'luru-Mys Expressway

A tragic road accident in Ramanagara, Bengaluru South district, claimed four passengers' lives in the early morning hours

RAMANAGARA

According to preliminary reports, the private bus operated by PK Travels was traveling from Kerala to Bengaluru when the accident occurred at around 4:10 am. Authorities suspect that the driver may have lost control of the vehicle due to drowsiness, causing the bus to veer off course and crash into a roadside fence. The impact was severe, and four passengers died on the spot. The incident occurred near Sankalagere village in Channapatna taluk on the Bengaluru-Mysore Expressway, raising fresh concerns about road safety and driver fatigue on long-distance routes.

The deceased have been identified as Mohammed Faran, aged 22, and Sulfi, aged 45, both residents of Kajikote in Kerala; Rashid, aged 45, from Kalasipalya in Bengaluru; and Saker, a resident of Annepalya in Adugodi. Two other passengers, Abdul and Alain from Kannur in Kerala, sustained injuries and were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment.

The ill-fated bus had departed from Calicut late at night and was carrying a total of 42 passengers at the time of the accident. Eyewitness accounts and initial investigations reveal that the bus continued to move for nearly 100 meters even after colliding with the fence, highlighting the force of the crash.

Officials from the Channapatna Traffic Police reached the scene shortly after receiving information about the accident and initiated an investigation. They are examining all possible causes, including driver fatigue and mechanical failure.Authorities noted that the presence of the roadside barrier played a crucial role in preventing a larger tragedy. Had the bus not been stopped by the fencing, the number of casualties could have been significantly higher. The incident has once again underscored the importance of strict adherence to safety protocols and adequate rest for drivers on long-distance journeys.

Wild Elephants Spotted Near Village Lake, Panic Among Farmers

CHANNAPATNA

A herd of wild elephants was spotted early in the morning near a lake in Brahmanipura village of Channapatna taluk in Bengaluru South district, triggering fear among local farmers.

According to local sources, three wild elephants were seen near the village lake at dawn, causing alarm among residents, particularly farmers who depend on nearby agricultural fields for their livelihood. The sighting comes at a time when incidents involving wild elephants have been increasing in Channapatna taluk, leading to heightened concern among villagers. The sudden appearance of the animals has once again highlighted the growing human-wildlife conflict in the region.

Just days ago, forest officials had managed to capture a wild elephant in the same region, offering temporary relief to the local population. However, the reappearance of another group of elephants has once again created an atmosphere of tension and uncertainty. Farmers fear potential damage to crops and property, as well as risks to human safety.

Upon receiving information about the sighting, officials from the Forest Department rushed to the spot and initiated measures to drive the elephants back into the forest. Teams are currently monitoring the movement of the animals and taking necessary precautions to prevent them from entering residential areas.Authorities have urged villagers to remain cautious and avoid venturing close to the elephants. They have also assured that efforts are underway to safely guide the animals away without causing harm.The recurring presence of wild elephants in human settlements has raised concerns about habitat loss and the need for long-term solutions to mitigate conflicts between wildlife and local communities.

Poorly Built Manholes on MG Road Raise Safety Concerns

KANAKAPURA

The newly laid white topping on MG Road was intended to improve road conditions and enhance durability. However, instead of providing relief, it has led to unexpected safety hazards due to improper construction of manhole chambers along the stretch. Several locations, particularly near Kamana Gudi and at the turn near Vani Talkies on Old Godown Road, have been identified as problematic zones. A recent white topping project on MG Road in Kanakapura has come under scrutiny after poorly constructed manhole chambers were found posing serious risks to motorists and pedestrians. The issue has sparked concern among residents, who question the quality of the work despite significant public expenditure.At these spots, the manholes have not been aligned or constructed properly, resulting in large potholes forming around them. To prevent accidents, temporary barricades have been placed around these areas. Despite these measures, the situation remains dangerous, especially during nighttime when visibility is low.

Ramanagara traffic police and municipal council have begun strict measures to regulate parking, improving traffic management across town

Authorities Enforce Strict Parking Measures to Ease Traffic Congestion

RAMANAGARA

Ramanagara, located near Bengaluru, has been witnessing a sharp rise in traffic congestion due to the increasing number of vehicles. Illegal parking on major roads had further worsened the situation, causing inconvenience to commuters and local residents alike. In response to growing complaints from the public, authorities have now taken concrete action to address the issue. The move aims to reduce congestion and ensure smoother vehicular movement on key roads.

Parking and no-parking signboards have been installed at 110 locations across prominent roads in the town. These signs clearly indicate designated parking zones and restricted areas, helping drivers make informed decisions and avoid unnecessary violations. Officials believe that the initiative will significantly streamline traffic flow and reduce bottlenecks in busy areas.The groundwork for this initiative was laid in August 2025, when the District Collector announced the introduction of regulated parking zones under the Motor Vehicles Act. However, the implementation faced delays due to the lack of clear operational guidelines. With renewed coordination between the traffic police and the municipal council, the plan has now been put into action.

Authorities have adopted a phased approach to enforcement. In the initial stage, emphasis is being placed on creating awareness among the public about the new parking rules. Traffic police personnel are educating motorists about designated zones and urging compliance.Following the awareness phase, strict enforcement will begin. Officials have stated that violators of the parking rules will be fined 500. The authorities are confident that these measures will not only ease congestion but also promote disciplined parking habits among motorists.

MLA Srinivasa Mane launches ₹30 lakh works

MLA SRINIVASA

MLA Srinivasa Mane inaugurated multiple development projects in Channapur village, Hanagal taluk, emphasizing the state government's commitment to fulfilling Kannadigas' aspirations. Undertaken at an estimated ₹30 lakh, the projects include concrete roads, drainage systems, side drains, road improvements, and temple renovations. Mane highlighted the significance of government guarantee schemes, benefiting over 65,000 families in the taluk with more than ₹250 crore annually, enhancing financial and social stability. He noted that ₹50 crore has been allocated for broader infrastructure development, with additional grants expected. Local leaders and villagers actively participated, showing strong support for ongoing initiatives aimed at improving living standards.

Woman Detained by Villagers Over Child Molestation Allegation

JANUKONDA

Tension gripped Janukonda village after residents detained a woman on suspicion of child molestation and later handed her over to the police. The incident has sparked fear and concern among locals, prompting authorities to launch a detailed investigation. According to preliminary information, villagers became suspicious of the woman's activities after noticing her frequent presence near children in the area. Concerned about the safety of minors, a group of residents decided to confront her. As suspicions grew stronger, the villagers collectively detained the woman to prevent her from leaving the area and immediately alerted the police.

The situation created a tense atmosphere in the village, with a large number of people gathering at the spot. Some residents expressed anger and fear, while others called for calm and insisted that the matter be handled legally. Police officials arrived promptly after receiving the alert and took the woman into custody to avoid any escalation of the situation.

The woman was then shifted to the local police station, where she is currently being questioned. Authorities have stated that they are carefully examining all aspects of the case, including verifying the claims made by villagers and gathering statements from witnesses.

Officials have not yet confirmed the identity of the woman or provided details about any formal complaint filed in connection with the incident.

Police have appealed to the public to remain calm and avoid spreading unverified information, emphasizing that such sensitive cases require thorough investigation. They also cautioned against taking the law into one's own hands, even in situations involving serious allegations.

Meanwhile, residents of Janukonda have voiced concerns about the safety of children and have called for increased vigilance and regular police patrolling in the area. The incident has once again highlighted the importance of community

awareness and the need for swift but lawful action when dealing with suspected crimes involving minors.

THRILLING STONE PILLAR PULLING CONTEST HELD IN NETRANAHALLI VILLAGE

CHITRADURGA

A unique and thrilling traditional competition drew large crowds in Netranahalli village of Molakalmuru taluk, where participants showcased strength and teamwork in a stone pillar pulling contest. The event created an atmosphere and celebration among villagers and visitors alike. The stone pillar pulling contest, a traditional rural sport, witnessed enthusiastic participation from teams competing in pairs. Known locally for testing physical strength, coordination, and endurance, the competition involved pulling a heavy stone pillar using ropes, requiring both power and strategy.

Villagers gathered in large numbers to witness the event, cheering for their favorite teams as they battled it out in an intense display of skill and determination. The contest not only highlighted physical prowess but also reflected the deep-rooted cultural traditions of the region, where such events are often organized during local festivals and gatherings.

Participants, many of whom had been preparing for weeks, demonstrated remarkable strength as they attempted to outdo each other. The competition remained intense throughout, with several closely fought rounds keeping spectators on the edge of their seats.

Organizers of the event stated that the aim was to preserve traditional rural sports and encourage youth participation in cultural activities. They also ensured safety measures were in place to prevent injuries during the contest.

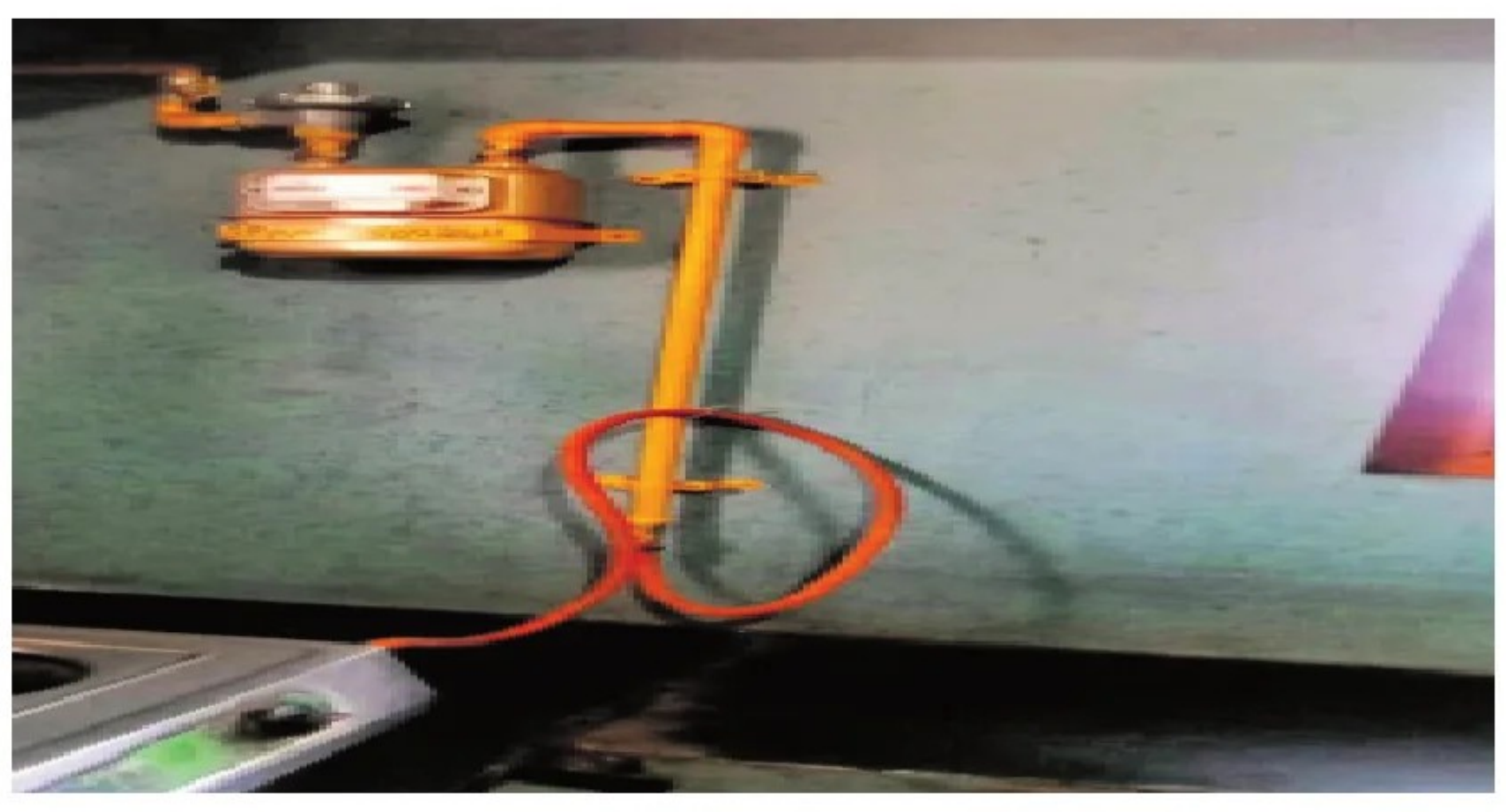
Local leaders and elders appreciated the efforts of the organizers and emphasized the importance of maintaining such traditions for future generations. They noted that events like these not only provide entertainment but also strengthen community bonds.

The success of the contest has inspired plans to conduct similar events in the future, further promoting rural sports and cultural heritage in the region.

PIPED GAS RELIEF

Piped natural gas prevents cooking gas shortages in villages

RAMANAGARA



In a significant relief to households, the state-owned company GAIL Gas Limited has been supplying natural gas through pipelines круглthe-clock to urban and semi-urban areas such as Harohalli, Bidadi, Ramanagara, and Channapatna. This initiative has ensured that residents do not face the difficulties associated with traditional cooking gas cylinders, especially during times of global supply disruptions.Unlike many parts of the country where people are struggling with delays and shortages in liquefied petroleum gas distribution, households in these regions are benefiting from a hassle-free system. Residents are receiving cooking gas connections without the need for repeated bookings or long waiting periods. This has significantly improved convenience and reduced dependency on external supply chains. Thanks to the steady supply of piped natural gas, residents in Harohalli and nearby towns continue to receive uninterrupted cooking fuel.According to available information, piped natural gas is currently being supplied to nearly 10,000 households across the district. Key areas covered under this network include Bananadur, Ittamadu, Bairamangala, Harohalli, Medamaranahalli, Ganaludoddi, Hebbidara Stap, and T. Banni Kuppe, among others.Local residents have expressed satisfaction with the service, noting that the uninterrupted supply has insulated them from the impact of international events affecting fuel availability. Officials believe that expanding this infrastructure further could help more regions avoid similar crises in the future.The success of this initiative highlights the importance of developing reliable and sustainable energy distribution systems.

Grand religious fair celebrated with devotion in Hanumanahalli village

The annual grand religious fair held at the revered Halaswamy Mutt in Hanumanahalli village was celebrated with immense devotion, enthusiasm, and traditional fervor, drawing thousands of devotees from across the region. The event, deeply rooted in spiritual heritage, marked the ceremonial "Mullugadduge" festival, which is a significant highlight of the mutt's long-standing traditions.

As per customary practice, the festival was conducted under the guidance and leadership of the pontiff of the mutt. The rituals began with special religious observances and prayers, creating a spiritually charged atmosphere. The seer observed a strict fast for nine days leading up to the event, reflecting deep commitment and devotion. On the day of the festival, special rituals were performed, followed by the central ceremonial proceedings late in the night.

A vibrant procession added grandeur to the celebrations. Beginning from the premises of the Halaswamy Mutt, the procession passed through the main streets of the village for nearly two hours before returning to the original venue.

QUICK READ

Notice Issued to Inactive Chit Fund Companies

Vijayapura

The district administration in Vijayapura has taken a strict stance against non-compliant chit fund companies operating in the region. Officials from the Department of Cooperation have announced that companies failing to function properly or those that have not registered their chit groups as required will face action, including being placed on a blacklist. According to the official statement released on March 23, chit fund companies have been given a period of seven days from the date of notification to submit their objections, if any. Representatives of the concerned companies have been directed to approach the office of the Cooperative Department and present their explanations or supporting documents within the stipulated time frame.

Young Achiever from Haveri Honoured with Prestigious Youth Award

Haveri

A talented student from Agadi village in Haveri district has brought pride to the region by earning a prestigious youth award for excellence in literature, culture, and sports. The recognition highlights her remarkable achievements at a young age across multiple fields. Greesma Ramanna Tatti, a student from Agadi village in Haveri taluk, has been selected for a prestigious youth award presented by a reputed literary and cultural organization in Mysuru. Currently pursuing her second-year pre-university education, Greesma has emerged as a multi-talented individual, excelling in academics, sports, and cultural activities. She has gained national-level recognition in karate, where she secured a gold medal in a major championship. In addition, she holds a black belt in karate, demonstrating her dedication and discipline in the sport. Her achievements extend beyond sports, as she has also been actively involved in literary and cultural pursuits, earning accolades and recognition from various platforms.

Teachings of Saint Dasimayya Inspire Society at Commemorative Event

A commemorative program highlighting the teachings and philosophical contributions of Saint Dasimayya was held on Monday, emphasizing the relevance of devotion, equality, and moral values in modern life

VIJAYAPURA

The event, organized at the district administrative office auditorium, brought together officials, cultural representatives, and members of the public to celebrate the legacy of Saint Dasimayya. Speaking on the occasion, District Officer Dr. Odaram stressed that devotion plays a crucial role in human life, describing it as a guiding force that brings stability and purpose. He noted that in today's fast-paced world, many individuals tend to drift away from spiritual values, which can lead to imbalance and dissatisfaction.

Dr. Odaram explained that just as a vehicle cannot function without a key component, life cannot progress smoothly without devotion. He emphasized that embracing devotion enriches life, making it more harmonious and fulfilling. According to him, the teachings of Saint Dasimayya offer timeless wisdom that continues to guide individuals toward a righteous path.

The speaker further highlighted that the verses and teachings of Dasimayya encapsulate fundamental truths about life, including the importance of work, awareness, and ethical conduct. He described the saint as a great philosopher who advocated equality, cooperation, and truth, values that remain highly relevant in contemporary society. Participants were encouraged to read and understand these teachings deeply and incorporate them into their daily lives.

Another speaker at the event delivered an elaborate lecture on the literary and philosophical contributions of Dasimayya, underlining how his works serve as a moral compass for society. The program also witnessed the presence of several senior officials, cultural department representatives, and community leaders.

The gathering concluded with a call to actively participate in such commemorative events in the future, enabling greater awareness and appreciation of the ideals propagated by great personalities like Saint Dasimayya.

World Tuberculosis Day 2026 will be observed on March 24 across the globe to raise awareness about tuberculosis, its impact, and the need for collective action to eliminate the disease

World Tuberculosis Day 2026 Observed to Raise Awareness and Promote Prevention

HAVERI

World Tuberculosis Day is marked every year on March 24 to commemorate the discovery of the tuberculosis-causing bacterium by German scientist Dr. Robert Koch in 1882. The day has been officially observed since 1982 by global health organizations to spread awareness about the disease and its serious health, social, and economic consequences.

The theme for World Tuberculosis Day 2026 is Yes! We Can End TB: Lead by Countries, Powered by People. This theme highlights the importance of strong leadership from governments and active participation from communities to eradicate tuberculosis. Health authorities are using this occasion to educate people about prevention, early diagnosis, and effective treatment.

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by bacteria that primarily affects the lungs but can also impact other parts of the body. It spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Despite being preventable and curable, tuberculosis remains a major public health challenge, particularly in developing countries.

Medical experts explain that not everyone infected with the bacteria develops active tuberculosis. However, individuals with weakened immune systems are at a higher risk. Common symptoms include a persistent cough lasting more than two weeks, fever, weight loss, fatigue, chest pain, and coughing up blood in severe cases. Early diagnosis and timely medical intervention are essential to prevent complications and further spread.

Treatment for tuberculosis involves a course of multiple antibiotics taken over several months. Government health programs provide free medication and support for patients to ensure complete recovery. Authorities stress that incomplete treatment can lead to drug-resistant tuberculosis, which is more difficult and expensive to treat.

On this occasion, health departments are encouraging citizens to be aware of symptoms, seek medical help promptly, and support efforts to eliminate tuberculosis. Public participation, combined with effective healthcare systems, is seen as crucial in achieving the goal of a tuberculosis-free future.

Light Rain and Thunderstorm Forecast for Coastal Karnataka: IMD Issues Advisory

BENGALURU

According to the IMD forecast, coastal Karnataka will witness relatively calm weather on March 24, with no major rainfall activity expected across the region. However, starting March 25, light to moderate rain accompanied by thundershowers is likely to occur at one or two places in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada districts. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has released a short-term weather forecast for coastal Karnataka, indicating light to moderate rain and thundershowers in several districts over the next few days. While no significant weather activity is expected on March 24, conditions are likely to change from March 25 onward.

The forecast further indicates that on March 26, similar weather conditions will continue in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts, where light to moderate rainfall and thundershowers are expected at isolated locations. In contrast, Uttara Kannada district is likely to experience dry weather during this period, offering some relief from rainfall activity.

On March 27, the pattern is expected to remain largely unchanged, with Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts continuing to receive light to moderate rain or thundershowers at a few places. Uttara Kannada, however, is again expected to remain dry, indicating a clear variation in weather conditions within the coastal belt. Meteorological experts have stated that such localized rainfall and thunderstorm activity is typical during seasonal transitions, driven by atmospheric instability and moisture incursion from the Arabian Sea. While the rainfall is not expected to be widespread or intense, residents are advised to remain cautious, especially during thunderstorm activity.

Fishermen and coastal communities have been urged to stay updated with weather bulletins, as sudden changes in wind patterns and lightning could pose risks at sea. Local administrations have also been advised to monitor the situation and ensure preparedness for any minor disruptions caused by weather changes.

Pioneer of Vachana Literature, Says Sub-Divisional Officer

CHITRADURGA

The birth anniversary of Saint Devara Dasimayya was observed in Chitradurga on March 23, where officials and scholars highlighted his pioneering role in vachana literature and his contributions to social reform. Sub-Divisional Officer Dr. Kantharaj described Dasimayya as a visionary who laid a strong foundation for social transformation through his teachings.

Speaking at a commemorative event held at the District Commissioner's office auditorium in Chitradurga, Dr. Kantharaj emphasized that Devara Dasimayya, who lived even before Basavanna, exemplified the highest form of devotion and played a crucial role in shaping social consciousness. The program was organized jointly by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Department of Kannada and Culture, and the city municipal council.

Dr. Kantharaj noted that Dasimayya was among the earliest vachana composers who brought philosophical and spiritual ideas closer to the common people by using simple, spoken language instead of scholarly expressions. He stated that in the long history of Kannada literature, vachana writers like Dasimayya made knowledge accessible to ordinary people, marking a significant cultural shift. Highlighting the saint's progressive thoughts, he said Dasimayya strongly opposed gender discrimination. Through his vachanas, he conveyed that the soul has no gender, delivering a timeless message of equality. He also referred to Basavanna's praise of Dasimayya's devotion, underlining the saint's spiritual stature.

Dr. Kantharaj further explained that Dasimayya, who was engaged in weaving as his livelihood, demonstrated the dignity of labor through his life and teachings. Writing under the signature name Ramanatha, he composed around 176 vachanas, which continue to guide society in addressing social evils and moral challenges.

Kannada professor Dr. Gayatri delivered a keynote lecture, describing Dasimayya as the original pioneer of vachana literature and a leader of early social, religious, and intellectual reform.

Senior Officials Inspect SSLC Examination Centres and Webcasting Facility

Senior district authorities on Monday inspected SSLC examination centres and the central webcasting monitoring unit in Vijayapura to ensure the smooth, transparent, and disciplined conduct of the ongoing public examinations

VIJAYAPURA

In a move aimed at ensuring the fair and efficient conduct of the SSLC examinations, senior district officials carried out an extensive inspection of examination centres and the webcasting control facility in Vijayapura on March 23. The visit was led by the Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Panchayat, Rishi Anand, who examined preparations and monitoring arrangements put in place across the district.

The inspection began at the district-level webcasting centre, which has been set up to keep real-time watch over examination activities at various centres. Officials reviewed the live monitoring system and assessed whether the surveillance arrangements were functioning effectively. During the visit, instructions were issued to maintain constant supervision and ensure that all technical systems operate without interruption or error.

Rishi Anand later visited several examination centres in the city, including government and educational institution-based centres, where he assessed the arrangements made for students. He instructed officials to ensure that candidates write their examinations in a calm and supportive atmosphere without fear or anxiety. Emphasis was placed on making the examination process both disciplined and student-friendly.

The team also reviewed the availability and functioning of essential facilities at the centres, including CCTV cameras, webcasting systems, first-aid kits, drinking water, and sanitation arrangements. After inspection, officials expressed satisfaction that the required basic infrastructure and monitoring measures were in place and functioning properly.

Special attention was also given to preventing malpractice during the examination period. Authorities directed staff to enforce strict monitoring at and around the examination centres and to prevent unauthorized persons from moving near the premises. Officials were also told to ensure the secure handling and timely distribution of question papers, while examination personnel were instructed to discharge their responsibilities carefully and without negligence.

The district administration underscored that smooth coordination among all departments is vital for the successful conduct of the examinations. Police personnel, health staff, supervisory officers, and other department representatives were present during the inspection, reinforcing the administration's commitment to conducting the SSLC examinations in a transparent, secure, and orderly manner in Vijayapura.

Authorities Direct Shops and Commercial Establishments to Register Under Labour Act

GADAG

The Gadag-Betageri City Municipal Council has issued a directive to all shop owners and commercial establishments to complete mandatory registration under the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act. Authorities have warned of legal action against those who fail to comply with the regulations.

In an official announcement released on March 23, the Gadag-Betageri City Municipal Council instructed all shops and commercial establishments within its jurisdiction to register under the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1961, along with the associated rules of 1963. The move is aimed at ensuring proper regulation of businesses and safeguarding the rights of workers.

According to officials, it is compulsory for all business owners, including those running small shops and larger commercial units, to complete the registration process. This applies to establishments with employees as well as those operating without staff. Authorities emphasized that compliance with the law is essential to maintain transparency and accountability in business operations.

Officials have directed business owners to register their establishments through the state government's online portal under the labour department. Applicants are required to submit necessary documents and pay the prescribed fee to obtain the registration certificate. The process has been simplified through the digital platform to ensure ease of access and faster processing.

The Labour Department has also clarified that even establishments that have not yet registered must do so immediately to avoid penalties. Inspectors have been instructed to monitor compliance and take action against defaulters.

DASIMAYYA JAYANTI GADAG

Dasimayya Jayanti Celebrated, Emphasis on Social Reform Through Promises

GADAG

The Jayanti program of Saint Devara Dasimayya was organized at the Dasimayya stage in Ternapet area of Gadag-Betageri by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, and the Department of Kannada and Culture. District Commissioner C.N. Sridhar inaugurated the event and addressed the gathering, emphasizing the saint's efforts in correcting social evils through his meaningful vachanas.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Commissioner said that Dasimayya worked tirelessly to reform society by addressing inequalities and wrong practices prevalent during his time. He noted that the saint, who belonged to the 10th century, earned his livelihood through weaving and used his vachanas to convey deep philosophical and spiritual messages. He urged people to adopt Dasimayya's ideals and incorporate his teachings into their daily lives.

Guest speaker Raghavendra Koppal delivered a detailed lecture on the life and contributions of Dasimayya. He explained that the saint was born in Mudanur village of present-day Yadgir district and was a devotee of Lord Ramalingeshwara. He further elaborated that Dasimayya received his education at a Shaiva center in Srisailam and developed a strong intellectual and philosophical outlook. His vachanas reflected not only devotion but also critical thinking and social awareness.

Raghavendra Koppal also highlighted that Dasimayya's spiritual name was Ramanatha and that his devotion was admired even by later saints. He described Dasimayya as a unique personality who questioned blind beliefs and promoted meaningful understanding. His wife, Duggaleyya, was also devoted and supported both spiritual practices and their traditional occupation.

Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department, Nanda Hanabaratti, encouraged students to focus on education and make use of government schemes to achieve higher positions in society.

During the event, achievers from various fields were felicitated, and prizes were distributed to winners of essay and vachana competitions as part of the celebration. Several dignitaries, including local leaders, officials, and community members, were present. The program concluded with a call to continue spreading the values and teachings of Saint Devara Dasimayya for the betterment of society.

State-Level Inter-Electricity Company Sports Tournament to Begin on March 25

The 2025–26 State-Level Inter-Electricity Company Sports Tournament will be held on March 25 in Mandya, bringing together employees from various electricity companies across Karnataka

MANDYA

Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Limited (CESC), Mysuru, is organizing the state-level inter-company sports tournament at the PET Engineering College Stadium in Mandya city. The event will commence at 8:30 AM and will feature competitions in multiple sports, including kabaddi, volleyball, basketball, ball badminton, and lawn tennis.

The inaugural ceremony will be presided over by CESC Chairman and Srirangapatna MLA A. B. Ramesh Bandi Siddegowda, who will formally launch the tournament. The sports torch for the inter-company games will be inaugurated by CESC Managing Director Muni Gopalraju KM, symbolizing the spirit of unity and sportsmanship among participating teams.

CESC Chairman and Chief Engineer Sunil Kumar A.A will preside over the function. The event will witness the presence of several distinguished guests from the power sector and administration. Among the chief guests are Karnataka Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited Director and Chairman Giridhar Kulkarni, Director Diwakar D.J, and Senior Vice President B.P. Vijaya.

Other dignitaries expected to attend include Chief Financial Officer Renuka G., Superintendent of Police Savita Hoogar, Chief General Managers Lingarajamma and Sharanamma Jangina, and General Manager B.R. Roop. Chief Engineers Nagaraju M.L, Satish Chandra N.S, and Krishnappa Gundinakeri will also be present at the event.

Representatives from various employee associations, including KPTCL Employees Association President K. Balaram, Engineers' Association President Basavanna C., Accountants' Association President S. Girish, and SC/ST Officers' Association President Sheela, will participate in the program. Additionally, Diploma Engineers' Association President Ramachandra A., Janata Education Institute President K.S. Vijay Anand, and General Secretary Michael Washington are expected to attend.

The tournament is expected to witness enthusiastic participation from teams representing different electricity companies across the state. Organizers believe the event will strengthen camaraderie among employees while encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle. The Mandya event is set to be a vibrant gathering of sports and professional unity, reflecting the importance of balancing work and wellness within the power sector workforce.

District to Celebrate Ambedkar and Jagjivan Ram Jayanti in a Meaningful Manner

CHITRADURGA

Chairing a preliminary meeting held at the District Magistrate's office in Chitradurga on March 23, District Magistrate T. Venkatesh stated that the Jayanti celebrations of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, and Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram, a pioneer of agricultural reforms, will be conducted with dignity and public participation.

According to the plan, Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram's birth anniversary will be celebrated on April 5 at Shivsharan Madara Channaiah Sabha Bhavan in Lidkar Bhavan. Meanwhile, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Jayanti on April 14 will coincide with the inauguration of the renovated Tarasu Theatre in the city. Officials informed that renovation work at the theatre is currently underway and will be completed in time for the occasion.

The District Magistrate highlighted that both leaders played a crucial role in empowering marginalized communities and ensuring representation for the underprivileged. He stressed that people from all sections of society should participate in the celebrations with enthusiasm and unity.

To ensure smooth execution, various committees will be formed, and the procession routes will be finalized in consultation with the Police Department. The administration also plans to distribute pamphlets highlighting the life and achievements of both leaders and organize lectures by resource persons recommended by community leaders.

Special initiatives include honoring civic workers on Ambedkar Jayanti and continuing the tradition of recognizing individuals engaged in social service. This year, new achievers and emerging leaders contributing to society will also be felicitated. Additionally, meritorious students who have secured top ranks in SSLC and PUC examinations in the district will be identified and honored to encourage academic excellence.

The District Magistrate also emphasized the need to move beyond limiting Dr. Ambedkar's legacy to any one section of society and called for the participation of religious leaders from all communities. Cultural programs, including patriotic songs and performances by professional artists, will also be organized.

During the meeting, community leaders requested the naming of a road after Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram and the of his statue in the city. Responding to these demands, the District Magistrate assured that the proposals would be examined in accordance with legal provisions.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, police representatives, social welfare officers, and leaders from various organizations, reflecting a coordinated effort to make the celebrations impactful and inclusive.

QUICK READ

Career Guidance and Skill Exhibition Held to Shape Students' Future

Chitradurga

A career guidance program and skill exhibition was organized in Chitradurga on March 23 to help students make informed decisions about their future. Officials emphasized the importance of awareness, skill development, and proper planning in building successful careers. The district administration, in collaboration with educational institutions, organized a comprehensive career guidance and skill exhibition program at a government pre-university college in Chitradurga. The initiative aimed to provide students with insights into various career opportunities, professional courses, and skill-based training options available after their current level of education. Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Panchayat, Ruchi Bindu, inaugurated the program and addressed the students, stating that such platforms serve as valuable opportunities for young learners to shape their future.

SSLC Exam Conducted Smoothly Across 61 Centres

Gadag

According to an official report released by the district administration, the SSLC Examination-1 for the subject of Science was held on March 23 in Gadag district without any major disruptions. The examination was conducted across a total of 61 centres, with necessary arrangements put in place to ensure a fair and organized process. District authorities had deployed designated observers to all examination centres to monitor proceedings and ensure compliance with guidelines. In addition, officials from the Deputy Director's office, along with members of district-level and local vigilance squads, were assigned to supervise the centres. These teams actively monitored the examination process and ensured that all rules and regulations were strictly followed.

Adopt the Ideals of Devadasimayya in Life, Says ADC Dr. Bhaskar in

CHIKKABALLAPURA

The Sri Devadasimayya Jayanti program was organized at the Kannada Bhavan in Chikkaballapura by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, and the Department of Kannada and Culture. Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Bhaskar inaugurated the event and addressed the gathering, emphasizing the enduring relevance of the saint's teachings.

Dr. Bhaskar stated that Devadasimayya, an 11th-century poet and the first vachana writer in Kannada, contributed significantly to society through his simple yet profound vachanas. He noted that the saint, while engaged in the weaving profession, drew inspiration from real-life experiences and used them to compose meaningful verses that guided society.

He further explained that Devadasimayya strongly opposed social inequalities, including discrimination based on gender, caste, and rigid rituals. Through his vachanas, he promoted equality and social justice, creating a strong foundation for social reform. The Additional Deputy Commissioner highlighted that vachana writers of that era viewed men and women as equals and worked toward building an inclusive society.

Dr. Bhaskar also pointed out that Devadasimayya traveled extensively to spread spiritual knowledge and social awareness among the masses. Although he composed numerous vachanas, only 176 are available today. These works, he said, continue to inspire individuals and guide them toward meaningful living.

Resource person R.V. Shashidhar, a retired associate professor, provided insights into the life of Devadasimayya. He explained that the saint was born in Mudenur village of present-day Yadgir district and later pursued spiritual education in Srisailam. Under the guidance of his guru, he gained spiritual wisdom and dedicated his life to spreading knowledge and devotion.

He added that Devadasimayya used the signature name "Ramanatha" in his vachanas and emphasized the importance of devotion, work, and discipline. His teachings, rooted in practical life experiences, continue to remain relevant even today.

During the program, meritorious students from the community who excelled in SSLC and PUC examinations were felicitated. Several dignitaries, including representatives from handloom and weavers' organizations, local leaders, and officials, were present at the event.

Statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to Be Installed at District Office

CHIKKABALLAPUR

Chairing a preparatory meeting held on March 23 at the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Hall of the Zilla Panchayat, District Collector G. Prabhu informed that statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar will be constructed in the premises of the district administrative building. He assured that the work would be completed at the earliest without any delay.

The District Collector stated that funds for the project have already been released and that the statues will be built following the model of those installed near the Jnana Bharati campus in Bengaluru. He added that the district in-charge minister has also issued directions to expedite the work, ensuring its timely completion.

During the meeting, officials also discussed preparations for the upcoming birth anniversaries of Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. It was decided to celebrate Dr. Jagjivan Ram's Jayanti on April 5 and Dr. Ambedkar's Jayanti on April 14 at the District Kannada Bhavan. Authorities emphasized that the celebrations will be conducted in a grand and meaningful manner.

Committees and sub-committees comprising district and taluk-level officers, along with community leaders, have been formed to oversee the organization of the events.

Responsibilities such as stage arrangements, invitation printing and distribution, felicitation of achievers, and overall event coordination have been assigned to respective departments.

To make the celebrations more impactful, a blood donation camp will be organized on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti in collaboration with the Red Cross. The District Collector appealed to the public to participate actively in the camp and contribute to this humanitarian initiative.

A grand procession featuring decorated tableaux and ceremonial elements will also be organized in Chikkaballapur city as part of the celebrations. Cultural programs, speeches on the ideals of the leaders, floral tributes, and felicitation of achievers will form key highlights of the events.

The administration has urged public representatives, community leaders, and citizens from all sections of society to participate in large numbers and make the celebrations successful.

Gas Cylinder Shortage Causes Hardship for Residents

HUBBALLI

A shortage of domestic gas cylinders in Hubballi city has led to significant inconvenience for residents, with many struggling to secure timely refills. Long waiting periods and limited supply have added to the difficulties faced by households across the city. Residents of Hubballi city are facing a tough time due to the sudden shortage of LPG gas cylinders, which has disrupted daily cooking routines in many households. Consumers have reported delays in delivery, with some waiting several days or even weeks to receive their booked cylinders.

The shortage has resulted in long queues at gas agencies, where customers are seen gathering early in the morning in hopes of securing a refill. Many residents expressed frustration over the lack of clear communication from distributors regarding supply timelines and availability.

Local sources indicate that the shortage may be due to supply chain disruptions and increased demand in recent weeks.

However, officials have not yet provided a detailed explanation for the situation. The lack of consistent supply has forced some families to resort to alternative cooking methods, adding to their inconvenience.

Senior citizens, working professionals, and daily wage earners have been particularly affected, as they find it difficult to spend extended hours waiting for gas cylinders. Several residents have urged authorities to intervene and ensure a steady supply to meet the needs of the growing population.

Gas agency operators, on their part, have stated that they are distributing cylinders as per availability and are facing constraints due to limited stock. They have appealed to consumers to remain patient until the situation stabilizes.

Meanwhile, local authorities are expected to review the situation and coordinate with supply agencies to resolve the shortage at the earliest. Citizens are hopeful that prompt action will restore normal supply and ease the difficulties faced by households in Hubballi. The ongoing crisis highlights the importance of efficient supply management and timely communication to prevent such disruptions in essential services.

Freshwater Pearl Farming Emerging as Profitable Venture

MANDYA

The closing ceremony of the Freshwater Pearl Farming Training and Mathwataranga Banuli Series program was organized in Mandya through a joint collaboration of the Fisheries Department, All India Radio Mysuru, and the University of Agricultural Sciences, V.C. Farm. The event was held at the Dr. Leslie C. Colden Hall of the Zonal Agricultural Research Center.

Dr. C. Ramachandra, Extension Director of the University of Agricultural Sciences, inaugurated the program and highlighted the growing importance of integrated farming systems. He emphasized that modern agriculture must incorporate diverse activities such as fisheries and allied sectors to ensure profitability. He noted that freshwater pearl farming, which has recently gained popularity, offers significant income potential for farmers when practiced with proper knowledge and training.

Dr. Ramachandra urged the Fisheries Department to expand such training programs across all districts under the university's jurisdiction so that more farmers can benefit from this emerging opportunity. He stressed that awareness and skill development are key to adopting innovative practices successfully.

Chief guest Dr. Keshav Murthy, Programme Manager (Agriculture) at All India Radio Mysuru, stated that the information shared during the training sessions would be disseminated through radio programs to reach a wider farming community. He encouraged farmers to adopt pearl farming as an additional source of income.

IN THE COURT OF THE MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNAL SPECIAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT DHARMAPURI
M.C.O.P. No. 625 / 2025

S. MURUGAN
...Petitioner
Vs
S. VENKATESH,
S/o. Seenappa,
D.No.639, Thilak Nagar, Athibelle,
Anekal Taluk, Bangalore – 562 107.
Bangalore City, Karnataka State.
...1st Respondent

NOTICE

Take notice that the above M.C.O.P. No. 625 / 2025 filed by the petitioner under section 166 of M.V. Act is posted for your appearance either in person or through an advocate to file your objections on 30.03.2026 at 10.00 a.m. Before this Honurable Court failing which the above case will be decided exparte against you.

// By Order of the Court //

K. VADIVEL, B.A., B.L.,
Advocate,
D.No.155A, S.V. Road,
Near Mahatma Gandhi Statue,
Dharmapuri - 636 701
Dharmapuri Taluk
& District, Tamilnadu.

Dharmapuri
13.03.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client by name Sri. Abhishek V. Son of late Sri Venkateshmurthy, residing at: No. 273, 7th Cross, Kempegowdanagara, Byadarahalli, Bangalore North, has lost Original Registered Sale Deed dated: 26-02-2004, executed by Sri. Ramaiah and his brothers in favour of Sri. Venkatesha Murthy, which is duly registered as Document No. 47934/03-04, CD. No. 170, Book-1, Registered on 01-04-2004 and Registered at Sub Register office, Bangalore North Taluk, while Xerox at Byadarahalli on 05-01-2026. Hence, if anyone found the said document, please intimate the same or handover the same to me or my client.

Contact Address:
Rajini. M.S. B.A., LL.B., Advocate.,
1st Floor, Society Building, PLD Bank Road, Opposite Old Bus Stop,
Ramanagara Town-562159.
Mob: 8884242935.
Place: Ramanagara.
Date: 24-03-2026.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SMITHA KURUVILLA D/o KURUVILLA P K, W/o ROBIN K SIMON, R/o No 29/1, Srinivasa Nilayam, Viviani road, Richards Town, Frazer Town, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560005, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SMITHA ROBIN. I have changed my name only not my religion.

NAME CHANGE

I, Khateja Tul Kubra D/o Mohammed Ismail And W/o Mohammed Altamash Pasha, residing at: 19/1/98, Mahaboobnagara, Ramanagara Town-562159, presently residing at No. 2903, 16th Ward, 2nd Cross, Near Anganavadi, Mothinagara, Ramanagara-562159, Ramanagara District, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:

1. I am residing in the above said address. I declare that my original name is "Khateja Tul Kubra D/o Mohammed Ismail, the said name is entered in my educational documents and my old Passport bearing No. L8398160 before marriage.

2. After marriage my husband name Mohammed Altamash Pasha is entered in my Adhaar Card as Khateja Tul Kubra. Before marriage surname is entered in my passport as Mohammed Ismail and after marriage my husband name is entered in my Adhaar Card. Hence I am swearing to this affidavit to prove the same.

This affidavit Sworn before Notory B.M. Srivastha, Ramanagara. Date: 16-03-2025.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DRAKSHAYINI D P D/o PUTTARAJU, R/o Dasalukunte Post, C N Durga, Hobali, Koratagere, Dasalakunte, Tumkur, Karnataka-572138, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DAKSHAYINI D P.

IN THE COURT OF THE A.D.J. COURT KALLAKURICHI
M.C.O.P. No. 75 / 2024

1. Dhanalakshmi,
W/O. Muralidharan,
2. Bakkiyalakshmi,
D/O. Muralidharan
Door No.57
Thiruvoodal Street
Thiruvannamalai.
...Petitioners
Vs
1. Manivannan
S/O Arthanari
No.107-4th Cross
New Extension, Kalasipalayam
Bangalore, Karnataka-560002.
… 1st Respondent
..Defendant

NOTICE

The petitioners has filed a petition seeking compensation for accident damages on this number and the society has been asked to appear in the society court on 08-04-2026. On that morning at about 10.30 am, the society is required to appear in person or through an attorney and express their objections, failing which the society will be deemed to have no objection and the decision will be decided against them as per the order of the court.

M. KATHIRAVAN, B.B.A., LL.B.,
ADVOCATE,
M.S. 2337/2013,
No. 12, Nehru Street,
Kallakurichi - 606 202.
Cell: 9842542425.

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To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

QUICK READ

Delhi cops bust investment scam, 2 arrested

New Delhi

The Delhi Police's Central District Cyber Police have uncovered an online investment scam worth Rs 21.46 lakh and arrested two accused. The fraudsters lured the victim with promises of high returns and later demanded more money through prepaid tasks and fake charges. Police registered an e-FIR on November 13, 2025, under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Through technical investigation, officials traced the money trail and secured key digital evidence. The victim transferred the amount before realising the fraud.

AISF declares candidates for 23 Bengal seats

Kolkata

The All India Secular Front (AISF) on Monday announced candidates for 23 assembly constituencies for the upcoming two-phase West Bengal Assembly elections next month. The party had earlier planned to name candidates for 33 seats but released only 23 names for now. AISF leaders said the party is contesting in alliance with the CPI(M)-led Left Front. While discussions were held for 33 seats, agreement was reached on 29, with differences remaining in four constituencies. AISF's lone MLA Nawsad Siddique has been re-nominated from Bhangar, where he won in 2021. He is expected to face Trinamool Congress candidate Saukat Molla in the constituency.

CoinDCX founders held in Rs 71 lakh fraud

Thane

Thane police have arrested CoinDCX co-founders Sumit Gupta and Neeraj Khandelwal in a fraud case involving Rs 71.6 lakh, officials said on Monday. The arrests followed an FIR registered on March 16 at Mumbra police station on charges of cheating and criminal breach of trust. A 42-year-old insurance advisor alleged he was lured with promises of high returns and a franchise offer linked to the crypto platform. Police said the victim transferred Rs 71.6 lakh through cash and online modes. However, the company claimed the FIR is false, alleging impersonators misused their names to cheat the public.

Rekha Gupta promises major push in Delhi Budget

'The upcoming budget would play a key role in speeding up the city's development and improving the overall quality of life'

NEW DELHI

On the eve of presenting the 2026-27 Budget, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta reaffirmed her government's commitment to building a "Developed Delhi, Green Delhi," aiming to meet the expectations of nearly three crore residents in the capital.

She said the upcoming budget would play a key role in speeding up the city's development and improving the overall quality of life. According to her, the focus will be on strengthening infrastructure and ensuring better access to basic services for citizens.

The Chief Minister highlighted that the budget would prioritise improved healthcare services, quality education, better infrastructure, and a cleaner environment. She added that special attention would be given to student facilities, expansion of healthcare systems, maintaining cleanliness, reducing pollution, and promoting a greener ecosystem.

Gupta stressed that "Developed Delhi, Green Delhi" is not just a slogan but a clear vision of her government. She said the goal is to create a safe, positive, and prosperous environment where people can live comfortably and with dignity.

She noted that over the past year, her administration has worked to change the direction of the city, and the new budget will focus on concrete steps to further improve living conditions.

Expressing gratitude to the people, Gupta said the government continues to work with their trust and support. She assured that the administration remains dedicated to serving citizens round the clock.

The Delhi Assembly budget session began with a traditional 'kheer ceremony' symbolising prosperity. Farmers honoured the Chief Minister, while ministers Parvesh Sahib Singh, Ashish Sood, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Ravindra Indraj Singh and Kapil Mishra attended.

Wankhede denies bribery allegations in Aryan Khan case

MUMBAI

Former Narcotics Control Bureau Mumbai zonal director Sameer Wankhede on Monday told the Bombay High Court that he neither demanded nor accepted any bribe from actor Shah Rukh Khan to spare his son Aryan Khan in the 2021 cruise drugs case.

Appearing for Wankhede, advocate Aabad Ponda argued before a bench led by Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Suman Shyam that there is no evidence to support the bribery allegations made by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The CBI had registered an FIR in May 2023 accusing Wankhede and others of allegedly demanding ₹25 crore from Shah Rukh Khan in exchange for giving Aryan Khan a clean chit. However, the defence maintained that the agency has failed to establish any proof of such a demand or payment. Ponda further told the court that the Narcotics Control Bureau acted on a tip-off regarding drugs on the Cordelia cruise ship and carried out the search as per legal procedure, leading to multiple arrests, including Aryan Khan, on October 2, 2021.

The case later took a turn when an independent witness alleged a ₹25 crore payoff demand. Following an internal vigilance probe by the NCB, the matter was referred to the CBI, which filed charges under criminal conspiracy, extortion, and corruption laws. The court will continue hearing the matter today.

Massive seizures as Bengal poll code come into effect

KOLKATA

Authorities have seized cash, liquor and drugs worth over Rs 181 crore as strict enforcement of the model code of conduct began across West Bengal ahead of Assembly elections.

Officials said the Election Commission has intensified monitoring across all 294 constituencies to ensure fair polls. The elections will be held in two phases on April 23 and April 29, with counting scheduled for May 4. Enforcement teams have conducted widespread checks, leading to the seizure of illegal cash, liquor, drugs and freebies. Strict action has also been taken against unauthorised political advertisements across the state.

A large-scale drive was carried out to remove defacement of public and private properties. Officials said over 3.11 lakh cases of public property defacement and nearly 20,000 cases involving private property were cleared. In total, more than 3.58 lakh violations were recorded across districts. To maintain strict vigil, over 1,800 Flying Squad Teams and more than 2,200 Static Surveillance Teams have been deployed. These teams are actively responding to complaints and preventing illegal movement of cash and materials during the election period.

Security has also been tightened to maintain law and order. Kolkata Police, along with central forces, intervened in sensitive areas like Baranagar and Kalighat to prevent tensions and ensure peace. Police have also taken action in cases of criminal intimidation and threats to voters. Several arrests have been made, and unlicensed arms and explosives have been seized during the intensified checks. Officials said strict monitoring will continue to ensure the model code of conduct is followed in letter and spirit across the state.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Centre may consider CBI probe if Punjab MPs submit written request

AMIT SHAH SEEKS WRITTEN REQUEST FOR CBI PROBE CASE

NEW DELHI

Speaking in the Lok Sabha, Amit Shah stated that the alleged harassment-linked suicide case of a Punjab government official falls under the state's jurisdiction. However, he assured that the Centre is ready to transfer the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation if Members of Parliament from Punjab submit a formal written request.

He urged MPs to come together and submit their demand in writing, promising to act on it. The statement came amid political tension over the death of Gagandeep Singh Randhawa, a District Manager with the Punjab State Warehousing Corporation.

Following the incident, Punjab Police registered a case against former minister Laljit Singh Bhullar and others. Randhawa had allegedly died by suicide after consuming poison at his residence in Amritsar. Before his death, he reportedly recorded a video accusing Bhullar of harassment.

Based on a complaint filed by his wife Upinder Kaur, police also booked Bhullar's father Sukhdev Bhullar and assistant Dilbagh Singh under charges including abetment of suicide and criminal intimidation. Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu welcomed Shah's suggestion and called it a positive step. He said leaders from Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal, and BJP have united to demand justice.

Bittu also urged MPs from all parties, including AAP, to support the call for a CBI probe. Referring to the martyrdom day of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru, he paid tribute and appealed for unity in seeking justice. The case has triggered strong political reactions, with opposition parties demanding a fair and detailed investigation.

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11 airlines exit market over financial, operational challenges

NEW DELHI

The government informed the Rajya Sabha on Monday that 11 airlines have exited the Indian aviation market over the past decade due to financial stress, aircraft shortages, and other internal issues.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Ministry, Murlidhar Mohol, said the aviation sector is deregulated, with airlines operating on commercial considerations, while the government remains committed to maintaining a balanced and resilient sector. Since 2016, several carriers have either ceased operations or merged with larger airlines. Notably, AirAsia India Pvt. Ltd. (now AIX Connect Pvt. Ltd.) merged with Air India Express Ltd., and Tata SIA Airlines Ltd. merged into Air India Ltd..

Addressing queries on outstanding dues of defunct airlines, Mohol said Kingfisher Airlines owed ₹380.51 crore to the Airports Authority of India, and the claim has been lodged with the official liquidator in Bengaluru. Kingfisher ceased operations in 2012.

Meanwhile, TruJet has dues of only ₹0.03 crore to AAI, and there are no pending dues from Jet Airways and Go First. The government emphasized that airline exits are a result of market forces and internal operational challenges rather than policy shortcomings.

World's first airport runway tunnel underway

HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday announced that an underground traffic tunnel is being built beneath the runway of Begumpet Airport, marking the "first time" such a project is being undertaken anywhere in the world. The tunnel aims to ease traffic coming from northern Telangana into Hyderabad. Speaking during the Legislative Council's Question Hour, Reddy said the government obtained clearance from the Airports Authority of India, and construction is now underway. He emphasized that no other airport in the world has an underpass beneath its runway. On the Musi Riverfront Development Project, Reddy said a cabinet sub-committee including Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka and Ministers D Sridhar Babu and Ponnam Prabhakar will invite opposition suggestions. He assured that all affected residents will be rehabilitated.

Reddy highlighted Hyderabad's comparatively better infrastructure, citing lessons from Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai on pollution, drainage issues, and traffic. He described plans to reorganize the state into Core Urban (CURE), Peri-Urban (PURE), and Rural Agriculture (RARE) regions, shifting polluting industries from the city to peripheral areas.

The CM also outlined Metro Rail expansion, noting the plan to acquire Hyderabad Metro Rail from L&T for ₹15,000 crore and expand it by 76 km, including airport connectivity.

CENTRE FORMS MINISTERIAL TEAM TO TACKLE WEST ASIA IMPACT

NEW DELHI

PM Modi also reviewed food grain availability and stressed the need to protect consumer interests. He said there is no immediate concern over power shortages, citing adequate coal reserves and increased renewable energy production

The Centre has formed a team of senior ministers to manage the impact of the ongoing West Asia conflict on India. The decision was taken during an emergency meeting of the Cabinet Committee chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday night.

The Prime Minister reviewed the current global situation and discussed possible challenges for India, including disruptions in supply chains and economic impact. A group of senior ministers, including Pralhad Joshi, has been assigned to closely monitor developments and ensure timely action. The meeting focused on key sectors such as agriculture, fertilisers, food security, petroleum, power, trade, transport, and finance. Special attention was given to the upcoming Kharif season, with discussions on fertiliser availability, stock levels, and alternative supply sources to support farmers.

PM Modi also reviewed food grain availability and stressed the need to protect consumer interests. He said there is no immediate concern over power shortages, citing adequate coal reserves and increased renewable energy production.

The Prime Minister advised diversifying imports in sectors like chemicals, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, and industry. He also called for exploring new export markets to promote Indian goods.

To handle the situation effectively, he directed the formation of a dedicated team of ministers and senior officials to oversee supply chains, security, and essential services. He also instructed authorities to prevent hoarding and artificial shortages of essential commodities.

The Prime Minister emphasised the importance of close coordination with state governments to ensure smooth management of the situation and minimise any adverse impact on citizens.

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ಸಂ:ಕಾ.ಇಂ.(ವಿ)/ಲೋ.ಇ./ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/2025–26/3032 ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.03.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು KW-3 STD ಷರತ್ತಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಮೂಲಕ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಎರಡನೇ ಕರೆಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

Sl. No.	WORK INDENTS	Work Value (Rs.in Lakhs)
1	PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT29344 Call-2 (Others)	59.31
2	PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT29169 Call-2 (Others)	63.28

ಮೇಲಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು **ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.03.2026 ರಿಂದ 30.03.2026, 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.03.2026 ರಂದೆ 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು Karnataka Public Procurement Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ವಿ)
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಉನಿ–ಸಿ.ಪಿ/6392/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Bangalore South District
District Urban Development Cell, Ramanagara-562159
Phone: 080-27274108/27276074, **E-Mail:** ka.ramanagara.dudc@gmail.com
No. RDUDC/MUN(1)/3rd Party inspection/CR/42/2025-26 **Date :** 18.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Project Dirctor, Bangalore South District, Invites Tender document system detailed tenders from Professional Quality Supervision Consultants for Providing Consultancey Services as 3rd Party (third party) Inspection and Monitoring Quality, Conducting quality test at various stages of work, under Various Fund of ULBs in CMC Ramanagara, Channapatna & Kanakapura, TMC Bidadi, Magadi & TP Harohalli of Bangalore South District.

Sl. No.	Brief Description	Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs.in lakhs	Contract period
1	INDENT No. DMA/2025-26 SE7493	86.04	1.29	One year from the date of award

Interested Agency/Consultant shall register on the KPP Portal to participate in this tender. Agency/Consultant can download the tender documents from the KPP Portal **https\\kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** EMD and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically.

Calendar of Events and other information's are as follows: 1) Pre-bid meeting: **24.03.2026 at 3.00 PM.2)** Last Date for uploading of completed tender documents: **07.04.2026 upto 5.00 PM. 3)** Date of Opening of Tenders: **09.04.2026 at 5.30 PM.**

Tender conditions and further information can be obtained from the said office during working hours. If any changes in the calendar of events and the conditions will be notified on KPP portal only. No paper advertisement will be published.

NOTE: 1) If bidder quoting negative/abnormal rate than tender bid will be rejected.

Sd/- Project Director
District Urban Development Cell
Bangalore South District, Ramanagara.
DIPR/BSD/715/SA/2025-26

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, Procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017. Ph: 9448994705
Email ID: gmpurc@cescmysore.org Website: www.cescmysore.org.
CESC/GM(P)/AGM(P-1)/M(P-1)/2025-26/43748-51 Date:23.03.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for carrying out the following works;

Sl.No.	Particulars	Enquiry no. / Date
1	Conversion of 11KV DC Feeder overhead line to 11KV HT UG Cable System in M.C Road Section, Mandya City Sub-division, Mandya Division.	C2-6481/20.03.2026
2	Manufacturing, Inspection/Testing and supply of 11kV Horizontal X arms (MS) to CESC	C2-6482/20.03.2026
3	Manufacturing, Inspection/Testing and supply of LT 4 Pin X arms (MS) to CESC	C2-6483/20.03.2026

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after **23.03.2026.** For clarification contact help desk +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or e-mail address **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

For Electricity Related Complaints Call: 1912

DIPR/MYSORE/1873/Shirdisai/2025-26 **Sd/- General Manager (Procurement),CESC, Mysuru**

Stay united, alert like COVID times: PM Modi

'The situation may persist for a long time and urged citizens to face challenges with patience and determination'

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called on the nation to remain prepared, united, and alert, similar to the collective response during the COVID-19 pandemic, as the ongoing conflict in West Asia continues to impact the world.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha, he said the situation may persist for a long time and urged citizens to face challenges with patience and determination.

He noted that during crises, some people try to spread misinformation or exploit the situation through hoarding and black marketing. He appealed to state governments to stay vigilant and take strict action against such activities. Security agencies across sectors, including borders, coasts, cyber systems, and key installations, have been placed on high alert.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the serious economic, security, and humanitarian challenges India faces due to the conflict. He pointed out that West Asia is vital for India's trade, especially for oil and gas supplies, and is home to a large number of Indian workers.

He assured that the government is taking all necessary steps to support Indians in affected regions, with continuous assistance from missions and coordination with foreign leaders to ensure their safety and well-being.

'Govt ensuring steady oil, gas supplies'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the government is ensuring steady oil and gas supplies despite the ongoing West Asia conflict. Speaking in the Lok Sabha, he highlighted that India has expanded its energy import network from 27 to 41 countries, strengthening supply security.

He noted that key imports like crude oil and gas pass through the Hormuz Strait, where shipping has become difficult due to the conflict. Still, the government has maintained smooth supply of petrol, diesel, and LPG, while prioritising domestic consumers and boosting local production.

He added that India has built strong strategic reserves and increased refining capacity over the years. The government is also working closely with global partners to ensure safe shipping routes and uninterrupted supply of essential resources.

Lok Sabha refers corporate law bill to JPC

NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday approved a proposal to send the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for detailed examination. The move came after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Bill in the House and recommended further scrutiny.

The proposed legislation seeks to amend the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008, and the Companies Act, 2013. It focuses on improving ease of doing business by removing minor criminal penalties, replacing them with civil fines, and reducing compliance burden for startups, small firms, and farmer producer companies. However, opposition members, including Manish Tewari, Sougata Ray, and T. Sumathy, opposed the Bill's introduction. They argued that the amendments could weaken Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) provisions.

Responding to the criticism, Sitharaman said the changes would boost investment and strengthen corporate governance. She added that the Bill was prepared after two years of consultations with industry bodies, legal experts, and the public. The amendments are based on recommendations of the Company Law Committee (CLC), set up in 2019. The committee included experts such as Uday Kotak, Shardul S. Shroff, and Sidharth Birla. These suggestions were further reviewed by a high-level panel on regulatory reforms led by Rajiv Gauba. The government had earlier announced such reforms in the 2025-26 Budget to simplify non-financial regulations and promote business growth.

QUICK READ

15 militants arrested, explosives seized in Manipur

Imphal

Security forces and Manipur Police arrested 15 militants, including a minor, during operations in the state. The action was carried out in Thoubal district on Sunday based on specific intelligence inputs about militant movement. Police said 14 members of the banned United National Liberation Front (Koireng faction) were detained. Officials seized 15 assault rifles, around 100 live INSAS rounds, ₹1 lakh cash, and four vehicles. In another operation, one member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (Pro) was arrested. Explosives, including a rocket-propelled grenade, were also recovered.

FIR against Pahalgam hotel over foreigners' stay

Srinagar

Police in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir have registered an FIR against a hotel in Pahalgam for not reporting the stay of 23 foreign nationals, including 19 British citizens. Officials said the case was filed under the Immigration and Foreigners Act after the hotel failed to submit the mandatory online Form C. During routine checking in Dehwatoo area, police found that the foreigners had checked into Hotel Misty Mountains Laddi on March 22. Police stated that the hotel management hid the information, violating security rules. An investigation is underway, and authorities have urged hotels to strictly follow reporting norms.

Jaishankar discusses West Asia conflict with Johann Wadephul during call

India-Russia aim $100 billion trade: EAM

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said he held a constructive discussion with German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul on the ongoing West Asia conflict. He noted that both sides agreed to stay in touch and continue dialogue. The talks highlight ongoing India-Germany coordination on regional security, with both stressing the need for diplomacy and humanitarian support amid rising tensions. India has consistently called for restraint and peaceful resolution. Meanwhile, reports suggest Gulf nations like the UAE and Saudi Arabia are closely watching the situation, expressing concerns over Iran's military capabilities and the broader regional impact.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday praised the strong and enduring relationship between India and Russia, stating that both countries aim to raise bilateral trade to USD 100 billion by 2030. He made these remarks while virtually addressing the conference titled "India and Russia: Towards a New Bilateral Agenda."

He appreciated the efforts of the Russian International Affairs Council and the Indian Embassy in Moscow for organising the event. Jaishankar said both nations are working to expand trade in a balanced and sustainable way, while also addressing non-tariff barriers and regulatory challenges.

Highlighting the partnership, he described India-Russia ties as a "special and privileged strategic relationship" built on trust and mutual respect. He noted that regular high-level engagements, including Vladimir Putin's visit to India in December 2025, have expanded cooperation into new areas such as skilled mobility, health, maritime ties, and trade.

He also stressed Russia's key role in India's civil nuclear sector, citing the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant as a major example. India aims to increase its nuclear power capacity to 100 GW by 2047 with Russia as a reliable partner.

Jaishankar further highlighted strong cultural ties and said new consulates in Kazan and Yekaterinburg will deepen cooperation. He added that India, as BRICS chair, will work closely with Russia in global forums to address shared challenges.

Raj Thackeray questions Maha direction in Kharat controversy

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray on Monday sharply criticised the alleged political links in the Ashok Kharat case, raising concerns over what he called a decline in the state's moral values. He expressed shock at the details emerging about Kharat, a self-styled astrologer, and questioned how such individuals could gain influence.

Thackeray contrasted Maharashtra's rich legacy of reformers like Sant Dnyaneshwar, Tukaram, and Gadge Baba with the current situation. He said it was worrying to see leaders moving away from rational thinking and relying on such figures.

He pointed out that some leaders allegedly linked to the case were part of passing the Anti-Superstition and Black Magic Act in 2013, calling it a serious contradiction. According to him, the pursuit of power has overtaken commitment to rational values.

Thackeray also highlighted issues within the political system, including competition for positions, fear of losing power, and alleged involvement of officials seeking influence. He questioned the timing of the investigation, referring to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's statement, and said accountability must include possible intelligence failures.

Palaniswami targets DMK, flags governance failure in TN

CHENNAI

AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami has written an open letter to the people of Tamil Nadu, criticising the DMK government and Chief Minister M. K. Stalin over what he called a serious failure in governance.

In his letter, Palaniswami said he has raised several issues over the past five years both inside and outside the Assembly, but claimed the government has not taken effective action. He accused the ruling party of ignoring public concerns and focusing more on image than accountability. Referring to a recent incident near Tirunelveli involving the murder of a Scheduled Caste farmer and the suicide of his daughter, he alleged that police acted only after public protests. He said this reflected a larger pattern, citing similar cases in Vengaivayal and Nanguneri affecting marginalised communities. The AIADMK leader also criticised what he described as the silence of leaders who speak about social justice during elections but fail to respond to such incidents. He urged the police to act without political pressure and ensure fair and timely justice.

Palaniswami warned that fear and injustice are becoming common in the state and said the government has lost accountability. He called on voters to use the upcoming elections to bring change, promising a governance model focused on safety, justice, and public welfare.

Agencies Track Fake Rights Groups In Kashmir Disinformation Drive

NEW DELHI

Intelligence agencies are closely monitoring individuals in Jammu and Kashmir suspected of forming human rights groups to spread false narratives against India. Officials said some journalists allegedly linked to Inter-Services Intelligence are also under scrutiny for publishing negative reports on security forces.

According to officials, these groups aim to present fabricated data and portray Indian forces as aggressors, despite a sharp decline in violence in the region. They are also expected to launch magazines and participate in international webinars to highlight alleged human rights issues.

Agencies noted that this marks a shift from earlier tactics of street violence to a "soft disinformation campaign." Incidents like stone pelting have reduced significantly, and local recruitment into terror groups has dropped from 143 in 2019 to just seven in 2024.

Officials said tourism has grown strongly, contributing nearly 7 per cent to the economy, with over 2.35 crore visitors in 2024 supporting around five lakh jobs. Attempts to target the sector, including attacks like the one in Pahalgam, had only temporary impact.

Authorities also warned that fake content using artificial intelligence, including deepfake videos and images, may be used to spread misinformation. Individuals linked to past separatist activities and groups like The Resistance Front are reportedly involved. Investigations are ongoing.

SELF IDENTI IS MY RIGHT
REJECT TRANSBIL 2026

Activists oppose transgender law changes, cite rights concerns

NEW DELHI

Transgender rights activists have strongly opposed proposed amendments to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, warning that the changes may weaken key protections and harm the principle of self-identification.

At a public meeting held on Sunday, activists and Opposition leaders urged the government to delay the Bill and hold wider consultations. One major concern is the proposal to require medical proof of gender identity, which activists say goes against the existing law that recognises self-identification.

Critics also objected to narrowing the definition of transgender persons by introducing limited categories. They argue this would exclude many individuals and wrongly mix gender identity with sexual orientation. Activists said this contradicts the NALSA v. Union of India judgment, which upheld the right to self-identify gender.

Lawyer Raghavi said many transgender persons cannot afford medical procedures, questioning how they would be recognised under the new rules. The proposed law may also limit recognition to those born intersex or those who undergo specific treatments, leaving out a large section of the community.

Activists further raised concerns over vague provisions on "force" and "inducement," warning these could be misused against families, doctors, and support groups.

Keshav Suri said the changes go against the spirit of earlier legal protections. Activists also criticised the lack of consultation and warned that many people who already have legal recognition may face uncertainty if the amendments are passed.

Parents seek help as Kerala seafarer goes missing

WAYANAD

The parents of a 20-year-old seafarer from Mananthavady are anxiously waiting for news after losing contact with their son for over a month amid the ongoing Iran conflict.

Fadusha Farhan T U, son of Shamsudheen and Rehnath, was working on a Malta-flagged vessel stationed in Iran. Another youth from Kerala, Jerin Joseph from Idukki, who was on the same ship, has also remained unreachable.

Rehnath said her son last contacted them on February 27 through a video call, informing them that everything was normal and that the ship would soon move from Tehran to Turkey. However, communication was lost the next day as tensions in the region increased. Efforts by the family to reach the shipping company have not yielded any response.

Shamsudheen said they had faced a similar situation earlier when they lost contact with their son during a brief conflict due to internet shutdowns. But he added that the current situation appears more serious.

The distressed parents have sought help from Pinarayi Vijayan, Suresh Gopi, O. R. Kelu and Priyanka Gandhi, requesting urgent intervention.

Farhan, the eldest of four siblings, supports the family, while his father runs a small dried fish shop. The family hopes authorities will act quickly to confirm the safety of both youths.

TB CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

TB Elimination Drive To Begin With Campaign

NEW DELHI

TB
March
an Bha
WORLD
WORLD
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India

The government will observe World Tuberculosis Day 2026 with a major national event on March 24 and roll out a 100-day campaign to intensify efforts to eliminate TB across the country. The programme is scheduled to take place at Gautam Buddha University in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

As per the Health Ministry, the event will showcase India's progress under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme and its mission to achieve a TB-free nation, a vision strongly supported by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Union Health Minister JP Nadda will launch the "TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan – 100 Days Campaign." Alongside this, a dedicated mobile application and an urban ward initiative will also be introduced. These measures are aimed at improving early detection of TB cases, ensuring timely and effective treatment, and strengthening healthcare services, especially in high-burden regions.

The theme for this year, "Yes! We Can End TB!", underlines India's renewed determination to tackle the disease. The event will bring together ministers, senior officials, healthcare professionals, public health experts, development partners, and community representatives to discuss strategies and progress.

The government also pointed to recent findings supporting shorter six-month oral treatment regimens for drug-resistant TB. A study by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) showed that this method not only delivers better health outcomes but also reduces treatment costs for the healthcare system.

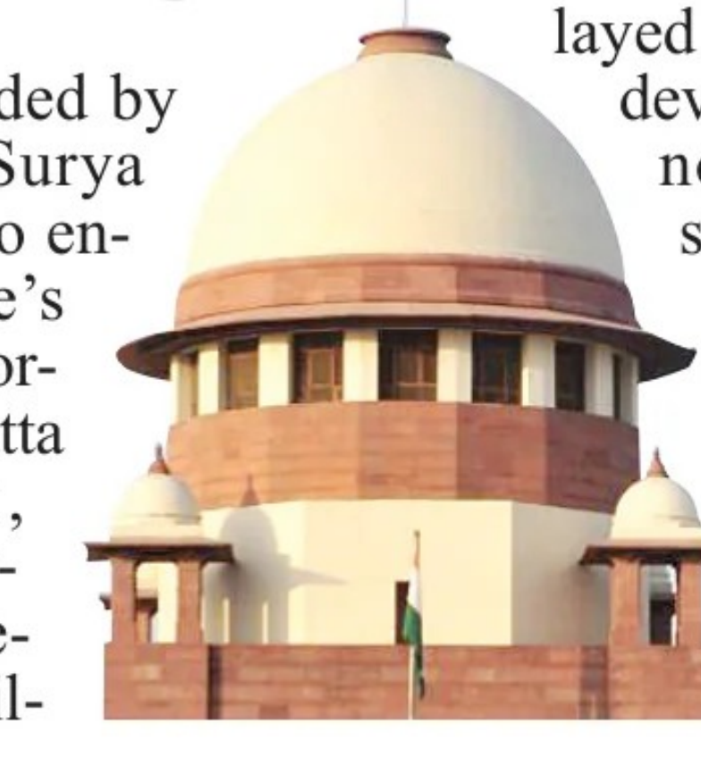
Officials said the campaign is expected to raise awareness, promote early diagnosis, and provide better support to patients, thereby accelerating India's journey towards eliminating tuberculosis.

SC lambasts Bengal over metro project delay

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India on Monday sharply criticised the West Bengal government over delays in the Kolkata Metro's Orange Line project, describing its approach as "obstinate" and not in public interest.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant declined to entertain the state's plea against an order of the Calcutta High Court, which had permitted traffic restrictions to facilitate metro construction. The court found no issue with the High Court's directions and said the project should move forward within a fixed timeline.



The apex court criticised the state's argument that festival-related duties had delayed support, stating that development work cannot be sidelined for such reasons. It also dismissed the claim that the Model Code of Conduct had affected the project, pointing out that essential infrastructure work should continue without interruption.

The Bench observed that authorities had not fulfilled their constitutional responsibilities and remarked that stricter action could have been taken against senior officials. It further refused to allow the state government to withdraw its petition, noting that adequate chances had already been provided earlier.

The matter relates to delays in completing an important stretch of the Orange Line metro, where work had slowed due to lack of clearances and insufficient support from the state government.

QUICK READ

BALOCH PROBLEM
SOLUTION
FREEDOM BALOCH
B.N.M. (KARACHI)

Baloch activists protest human rights violations

Busan

Baloch activists staged a protest in Busan, accusing Pakistan of serious human rights violations in Balochistan. The protest is part of a global campaign from March 10 to April 9 to raise awareness about the issue. Speakers alleged rising cases of enforced disappearances and killings, claiming over 1,300 disappearances in 2025. Activists said people live in fear and face unlawful detentions. They urged the United Nations and global powers to investigate and press Pakistan for accountability.

Foreign tourist numbers rise in Afghan in 2025

Kabul

Afghanistan witnessed a rise in foreign tourists in 2025, with over 9,500 visitors recorded in the first eleven months, according to officials. Tourists explored historic provinces like Herat, Kandahar, Bamiyan, Ghazni and Kabul. Visitors arrived from countries including China, India, the United States and Germany. Experts say the increase shows growing global interest in Afghanistan's cultural heritage. However, they cautioned that security concerns and economic challenges still affect the tourism sector's growth and long-term potential.

Hezbollah launches dozens of attacks on Israel

Tehran

Hezbollah carried out more than 60 military operations against Israeli positions in the past 24 hours, according to Iranian media. The attacks included rockets, drones and artillery targeting military bases and troop areas. The action was described as a response to recent Israeli strikes. Meanwhile, rockets hit northern Israel, injuring five people and damaging buildings. Israel also destroyed a bridge over Lebanon's Litani River, calling it a Hezbollah route. Beirut condemned the strike as a dangerous escalation and urged global intervention.

North Korea's Kim reappointed prez of state affairs

The key leadership changes signal political shifts and possible constitutional revisions ahead

SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has been reappointed as president of the State Affairs Commission during the first session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly (SPA).

The decision was made during the opening session of the country's parliament following last month's ruling party congress. The meeting is considered an important step to approve policies and laws based on party decisions.

During the session, Jo Yong-won, a close aide to Kim, was elected chairman of the SPA Standing Committee, replacing Choe Ryong-hae. This role is regarded as the highest parliamentary position in the country.

Premier Pak Thae-song retained his post, while former premier Kim Tok-hun was appointed as first vice premier, a newly created role. Jo Yong-won was also named vice chief of the State Affairs Commission.

Notably, Kim Yo-jong, the influential sister of Kim Jong-un, was removed from the commission, marking a significant change in the leadership structure.

Ahead of the session, 687 deputies were selected for the SPA. State media reported that candidates received 99.93 percent approval, with a voter turnout of 99 percent, reflecting strong official support.

The assembly meeting is seen as crucial, with analysts suggesting it may introduce constitutional changes, including redefining relations with South Korea as ties between two hostile states.

Kim Jong-un has led North Korea since 2011, continuing the leadership legacy established by his grandfather and father.

4 ambulances burnt in Golders Green arson case

LONDON

Four ambulances belonging to a Jewish community service were set on fire in Golders Green, prompting a police investigation.

The Metropolitan Police confirmed that the incident is being treated as an anti-Semitic hate crime. Officers rushed to Highfield Road in the early hours of Monday after receiving a call from the London Fire Brigade about a major fire.

On arrival, emergency teams found four Hatzalah ambulances engulfed in flames. Nearby homes were evacuated as a safety measure, and roads in the area were closed to manage the situation. Firefighters quickly brought the blaze under control, and no injuries were reported.

Police said reports of explosions were likely caused by gas canisters inside the ambulances. Authorities confirmed that investigations are ongoing, and officers remain at the scene to collect evidence.

Superintendent Sarah Jackson said the incident has caused serious concern among residents. She stated that police are reviewing CCTV footage and videos shared online to identify those responsible.

According to early findings, three suspects are believed to be involved, though no arrests have been made so far. Police have appealed to the public to provide any information that may help the investigation, including anonymous tips.

Officials also said that extra police patrols will be deployed in the area. Authorities plan to engage with local faith leaders to reassure the community and maintain a visible presence while the investigation continues.

Global climate imbalance reaches record levels: WMO

GENEVA

The World Meteorological Organization has warned that Earth's climate is becoming increasingly unstable, reaching levels never seen before in recorded history.

The warning came as the WMO released its State of the Global Climate 2025 report on World Meteorological Day, themed "Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow." The report reviewed key climate indicators such as greenhouse gases, global temperatures, ocean heat, sea levels and ice melt.

According to the findings, the period from 2015 to 2025 marks the 11 hottest years ever recorded. The year 2025 ranked among the top three warmest, with temperatures about 1.43 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Scientists also noted an increase in extreme weather events like heatwaves, heavy rainfall and powerful cyclones, which caused widespread damage and disruption.

The report highlighted that oceans are absorbing large amounts of heat and carbon dioxide. Over the past 20 years, oceans have taken in heat equal to about 18 times the world's annual energy use each year. In 2025, ocean heat content reached its highest level since records began in 1960.

Levels of major greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, continued to rise during the year. For the first time, the report also focused on Earth's energy imbalance, which measures the difference between incoming and outgoing energy.

Experts said this imbalance has steadily increased since 1960 and reached a new peak in 2025. The WMO stressed that these trends show an urgent need for stronger global action to address climate change and protect the planet.

6 hurt after plane collision at La Guardia airport

NEW YORK

AIR CANADA
EXPRESS
E 4-22

An Air Canada Express aircraft collided with a ground vehicle during landing at La Guardia Airport, injuring six people.

The incident occurred on Sunday when the plane, arriving from Montreal, struck a ground vehicle while landing. Reports said four firefighters were seriously injured and are in critical condition, while the pilot and co-pilot of the aircraft also suffered major injuries.

Following the collision, the Federal Aviation Administration ordered a temporary halt to all flight operations at the busy airport. Authorities issued a ground stop for incoming and outgoing flights, citing an emergency situation. Officials indicated that the suspension could be extended depending on safety assessments.

Although details about the exact cause of the collision were not immediately confirmed, unverified videos on social media showed damage to the aircraft's nose section. Emergency teams were expected to respond as part of standard procedures.

The situation caused concern over possible flight delays and disruptions, as La Guardia Airport handles a large number of daily flights. Aviation experts noted that such incidents, though rare, can lead to wider delays across the air traffic network.

Air Canada, the FAA and local fire officials had not released detailed statements at the time of reporting, leaving several aspects unclear.

Authorities are continuing their investigation to determine what led to the collision and to ensure safe resumption of operations. Further updates are expected as officials review the incident and assess its impact on airport services.

Iran moves ICC over US-Israel attacks

TEHRAN

Cour Pénale Internationale
International Criminal Court

The Iranian Red Crescent Society said Tehran has sent 16 formal letters to the International Criminal Court and other global authorities, seeking condemnation of what it called an unprovoked war of aggression

Iran has approached international bodies alleging attacks by the United States and Israel caused large-scale civilian damage.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society said Tehran has sent 16 formal letters to the International Criminal Court and other global authorities, seeking condemnation of what it called an unprovoked war of aggression.

Deputy official Razieh Alishvandi said Iran is urging legal action and remains in contact with the International Federation of the Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross. She added that several joint statements have highlighted alleged attacks on civilians, medical centres and emergency services.

The escalation began on February 28, following rising tensions. Iran has reportedly responded with missile and drone strikes targeting Israeli and US-linked sites in the region.

IRCS head Pir-Hossein Kolivand said more than 81,000 civilian units have been damaged, including homes, schools and health facilities. He described the destruction as a violation of international humanitarian law and the Geneva Convention.

Reports said over 61,000 homes and nearly 19,000 commercial units were affected across several provinces. In Tehran alone, thousands of residential buildings, schools and health centres were damaged.

Iranian officials said attacks on such facilities directly impact lifesaving services and civilian safety. Authorities added that documentation of the incidents is continuing as part of efforts to seek accountability at the international level.

UK cops probe Jewish charity ambulance arson as hate crime

LONDON

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer strongly criticised the incident, describing it as a deeply shocking antisemitic act after four ambulances were deliberately set on fire in Golders Green. He extended support to the Jewish community and made it clear that antisemitism has no place in society. He also urged anyone who may have information to come forward and assist the authorities in their investigation.

The Metropolitan Police confirmed that the case is being handled as a hate crime. Officers rushed to the scene after receiving a call from the London Fire Brigade about a fire on Highfield Road during the early hours of Monday. When emergency teams arrived, they found four Hatzalah ambulances burning.

As a safety measure, nearby houses were evacuated and roads in the area were temporarily closed. Thankfully, no injuries were reported, and firefighters were able to bring the fire under control. Police stated that reports of explosions were likely caused by gas canisters inside the ambulances.

Superintendent Sarah Jackson said the incident has created fear and concern among local residents. She added that officers are carefully examining CCTV footage and videos shared online to gather evidence.

Police suspect that three individuals may be involved in the attack, but no arrests have been made so far. Authorities have requested the public to share any information, even anonymously.

Extra police patrols will continue in the area, and officers will work closely with community and faith leaders to ensure safety and reassurance.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	1	5		6			7	4
3			5		7	1		
7		2		4			5	3
	7		9		6	4		
6		8		2			3	7
4		1	7		5	6		
	4			1			9	5
2		9	9		4	3		
1		6		5			4	

5	1	4	7	3	6	9	2	8
6	3	9	5	2	8	1	7	4
8	7	2	4	9	1	5	6	3
9	6	5	2	4	7	8	3	1
7	8	1	6	5	3	4	9	2
4	2	3	1	8	9	7	5	6
2	4	8	3	7	5	6	1	9
3	5	6	9	1	4	2	8	7
1	9	7	8	6	2	3	4	5

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

Mounting allegations of state violence arise in PoGB

LONDON

Fresh allegations of violence by Pakistani security forces in Pakistan-occupied Gilgit-Baltistan have raised serious human rights concerns.

Political activist Amjad Ayub Mirza has accused security forces of targeting civilians, including children, in recent incidents reported from Gilgit and Skardu. He claimed that at least 17 minors have lost their lives, calling it a grave violation of human rights.

In a press statement, Mirza said the use of force against unarmed civilians has increased fear among residents. He alleged that authorities are trying to stop possible protests, especially those planned by the Awami Action Committee, by taking strict action against its leaders.

According to him, cases have been filed against at least 15 members of the committee's leadership, including Comrade Manzar Maya. He also claimed that security forces carried out repeated raids on activists' homes over the past two days.

Mirza stated that several individuals, including Chairman Ehsan Ali, Muhammad Nafees, Nusrat Hussain and Abrar Bagoro, have been detained. He described these actions as an attempt to silence voices and restrict political expression in the region.

He also raised concerns about the unclear constitutional status of the region, saying it weakens accountability. He questioned why no legal action has been taken in cases involving the deaths of children.

Referring to a March 1 incident in Jutial near a United Nations office, Mirza questioned the use of force against civilians. He urged global organisations to investigate and ensure accountability.

BAN ON GIRLS' EDUCATION

Kabul schoolgirls urge Taliban to reopen schools

KABUL

Afghan schoolgirls have once again urged authorities to reopen schools, highlighting growing concerns over their uncertain future.

Female students in Kabul renewed their appeal to the Islamic Emirate, asking for the reopening of schools and institutions that have remained closed due to ongoing restrictions. Many girls said they feel frustrated and worried as they continue to be denied access to education.

Mojda, a student from Takhar, shared that her family moved to Kabul hoping she could continue her studies. However, even private courses were shut down, leaving her without options. She urged authorities to reopen schools so girls can continue their education.

Another student, Sama, said education is the only hope for Afghan girls and called for immediate action. She expressed concern that many students are losing motivation and hope due to prolonged closures.

Women's rights activists have also raised concerns, calling the restrictions a violation of basic rights. Lamia Shirzai stressed that reopening schools and universities is essential for the country's progress and global standing.

Students like Husnia said they fear being forced to stay at home after completing primary education. She said many girls have dreams and want to study further but are unable to do so due to restrictions.

Since political changes in Afghanistan, access to education for girls has been limited, drawing criticism from international organisations. Experts warn that denying education not only harms individual futures but also affects the country's social and economic development in the long run.

The renewed appeal reflects the determination of Afghan girls to continue learning despite challenges.

APRILIA MAKES HISTORY WITH PERFECT BRAZIL FINISH

Marco Bezzecchi powers Aprilia Racing to a historic 1-2 finish in Brazil, claiming his fourth consecutive MotoGP victory

GOIANIA

Marco Bezzecchi continued his unstoppable run in MotoGP, clinching a fourth consecutive Grand Prix victory in a historic afternoon for Aprilia Racing. In a dominant display of speed and strategy, Bezzecchi led his teammate Jorge Martin across the finish line, marking the first time in Aprilia's history that the team has secured a 1-2 finish.

The race in Brazil was a masterclass in recovery. After struggling during sessions, Bezzecchi timed his start perfectly to take the "holeshot" into the first corner. While Fabio Di Giannantonio initially held onto second from pole position, the mid-pack was a whirlwind of action. Rising star Pedro Acosta charged from ninth to fifth, while veterans Marc Marquez and Jorge Martin battled fiercely for podium spots.

By the sixth lap, the race took a decisive turn. Martin surged ahead into second place, tucking in behind Bezzecchi to protect the team's lead. Meanwhile, a dramatic duel unfolded for the final trophy spot. Di Giannantonio managed to edge out Marc Marquez in a nail-biting finish to claim his first podium of the 2026 season. Marquez ultimately settled for fourth, followed by Ai Ogura and Alex Marquez.

The weekend was not without drama, as title contenders Francesco Bagnaia and Joan Mir both crashed out of the race. This victory catapults Bezzecchi to the top of the championship standings and puts Aprilia in the lead of the constructors' table for the first time. The team now carries this massive momentum into next weekend's Grand Prix in the United States.

French star Griezmann heading to Orlando City

PARIS

World Cup hero Antoine Griezmann is finally making his dream move to America. The Atletico Madrid forward is reportedly set to join Major League Soccer (MLS) side Orlando City this summer. After weeks of rumors, the French star has been given the green light to travel to the United States to finalize the massive deal.

At 35, Griezmann remains one of the most decorated names in football. While he was tempted to leave Spain earlier, he chose to stay with Atletico to help them in the upcoming Copa Del Rey final against Real Sociedad on April 19. As the club's all-time leading scorer, he wanted to ensure he left his longtime team on a high note before crossing the Atlantic.

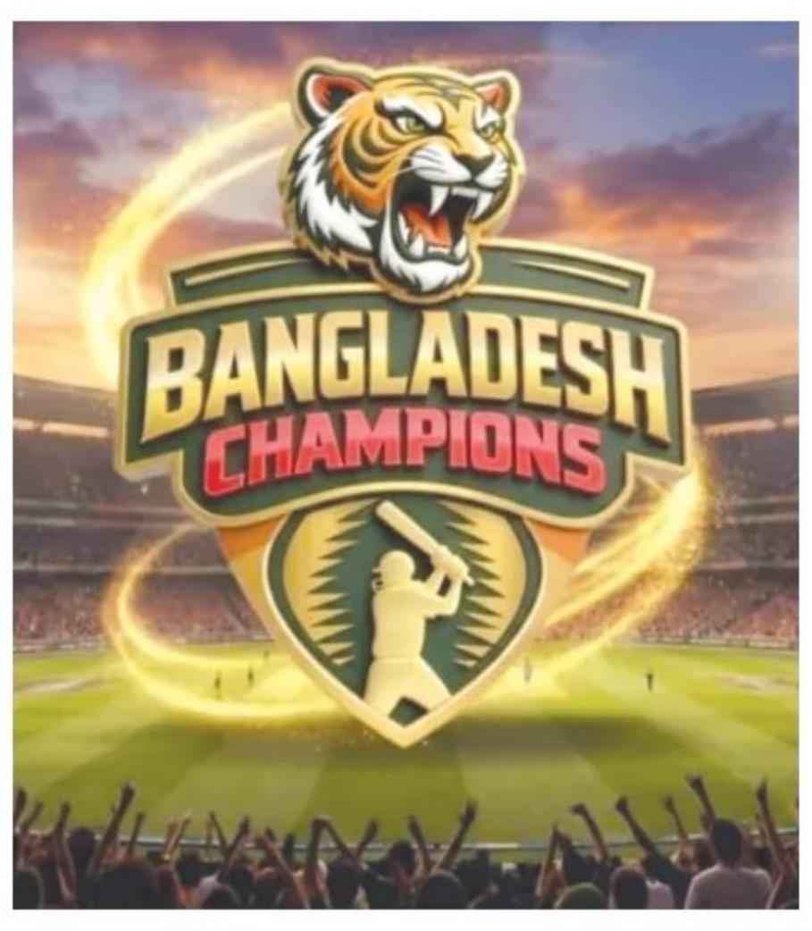
Griezmann's love for American culture is well-known; he is often seen courtside at NBA games and has frequently spoken about finishing his career in the States. Although teams like Inter Miami and LAFC were interested, Orlando City won the race for his signature. His arrival is expected to provide a huge boost to the Florida-based club, bringing world-class leadership and a clinical finishing touch to their attack.

With 44 goals for France and multiple "Team of the Season" honors in Spain, Griezmann brings an elite pedigree to the growing league. Even with a slight dip in scoring this year, his experience as a 2018 World Cup winner makes him a "Designated Player" who could change the face of the franchise.

Antoine Griezmann is set to join Orlando City, bringing World Cup-winning experience, leadership, and elite goal-scoring pedigree to boost Major League Soccer this summer

Bangladesh legends join World Championship of Legends

NEW DELHI



The World Championship of Legends (WCL) has officially expanded its borders, announcing that the "Bangladesh Champions" will join the league for its highly anticipated third season. This historic move marks a major step in the tournament's goal to become a truly global celebration of cricket's greatest retired icons.

The WCL has already gained a massive following by bringing superstars like Yuvraj Singh, AB de Villiers, and Chris Gayle back to the pitch. By adding a Bangladeshi team, the league is tapping into one of the most passionate cricket cultures in the world. WCL Founder Harshit Tomar noted that the decision was a direct response to years of intense fan demand from the region.

Leading the charge for the new team is star player Mohammad Mahmudullah, who expressed immense pride in representing his nation on such a prestigious global stage. The team, backed by JCUK Sports Ltd, aims to connect the Bangladeshi diaspora with their sporting heroes through high-intensity matches. Mahmudullah emphasized that while the players are "legends," their competitive spirit remains as sharp as ever.

With this new addition, WCL 2026 will now feature legendary squads from seven different nations. Fans can look forward to a season filled with national pride, iconic matchups, and the nostalgic thrill of seeing world-class veterans face off once again. This expansion ensures that the third season will be the most diverse and competitive in the league's growing history.

RCB stars shine in high scoring thriller

BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) kicked off their title defense with an explosive warm-up match, giving fans a taste of the fireworks to come in IPL 2026. The defending champions displayed massive hitting power, with new face Jitesh Sharma and captain Rajat Patidar stealing the spotlight in a high-scoring contest.

Wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma was the star of the first innings, smashing a blistering 81 runs off just 37 balls. His aggressive play, supported by quick contributions from Tim David and Venkatesh Iyer, helped RCB post a daunting total of 234/7. Even superstar Virat Kohli joined the party, treated the crowd to a vintage cameo of 29 runs from only 12 deliveries.

The chase was equally thrilling. Captain Rajat Patidar led the opposition's response with a sensational 74 off 25 balls, while Devdutt Padikkal and Krunal Pandya also crossed the half-century mark. The match ended with a narrow victory for the chasing side, who reached 247, proving that the team's batting depth is deeper than ever.

Head coach Andy Flower praised the senior players for their form but was equally impressed by young bowlers like Abhinandan Singh and Rasikh Dar Salam. Krunal Pandya noted that Kohli's timing looked "excellent," a scary sign for rival teams. With their first official game against Sunrisers Hyderabad set for March 28, RCB looks perfectly prepared to hunt for back-to-back titles.

Nitish Reddy tapped as key Hyderabad glue

NEW DELHI

As Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) prepares for their massive IPL 2026 opener against Bengaluru, former all-rounder Irfan Pathan has identified Nitish Kumar Reddy as the vital "glue" for the team's high-risk batting style. Pathan believes the young star is the only player who can balance a lineup filled with aggressive hitters like Travis Head, Ishan Kishan, and Heinrich Klaasen.

Nitish, who was the 2024 Emerging Player of the Season, is looking for a comeback after a difficult 2025. His scoring dropped from 303 runs to just 182 last year, with his strike rate also falling significantly.

Pathan pointed out that for SRH's "ultra-aggressive" plan to work, someone must provide stability in the middle. If the big hitters fall early, Nitish's role becomes the most important job on the field to prevent a total collapse.

The team faces an additional challenge with captain Pat Cummins missing the early stages due to injury. Pathan noted that Cummins' leadership and aggressive bowling have defined SRH's identity over the last two years. In his absence, the captaincy falls to Ishan Kishan, who recently led Jharkhand to a domestic trophy win and starred in the T20 World Cup.

While Abhishek Sharma will serve as vice-captain, Pathan backed Kishan as the logical leader for now. All eyes will be on the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium this March 28 to see if Nitish can stabilize the ship while the new leadership steps up under pressure.

Axar Patel slams IPL impact player rule

NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals captain Axar Patel has sparked a heated debate just days before the new season by openly criticizing the IPL's "Impact Player" rule. Speaking at a pre-season press conference, the star all-rounder admitted he "honestly dislikes" the regulation, claiming it actively hurts players who contribute with both bat and ball.

The rule, which allows teams to swap a player during a match, has changed how coaches think. Axar explained that instead of picking versatile all-rounders, teams now simply substitute a specialist batter for a specialist bowler. "Earlier, you were picked for both skills," Axar noted. "Now, that role is shrinking." He previously pointed out that the rule pushed him lower down the batting order, limiting his impact on the game.

Despite his personal feelings, Axar remains a "crisis man" for Delhi. Last year, he battled through a finger injury sustained during the Champions Trophy, which hampered his bowling stats. However, his batting stayed elite, as he smashed 263 runs at a blistering strike rate of 158. He clarified that while his bowling numbers dipped due to injury, his commitment to the team remains his top priority.

As Delhi Capitals prepare for their April 1 opener against Lucknow Super Giants, Axar is determined to stay flexible. Whether he is needed as a finisher or a lead spinner, he promised to give 100 percent. However, his comments reflect a growing concern among India's top all-rounders that the traditional balance of cricket is being lost to tactical substitutions.

Matthew Renshaw eyes return to Test Cricket

GOLD COAST

Australian batter Matthew Renshaw has made it clear that while his recent white-ball success has been "awesome," his heart is still set on wearing the baggy green once again. Despite becoming a rare three-format player for Australia this year, the 29-year-old told reporters that a Test team comeback remains his ultimate priority.

Renshaw's journey has been a whirlwind lately. Since last October, he made his ODI debut against India and played his first T20I against Pakistan. He even finished as Australia's third-highest run-scorer in the recent T20 World Cup, highlighted by a brilliant 65 against Zimbabwe. Renshaw explained that playing shorter formats has actually improved his game, teaching him how to handle different bowling tricks and stay innovative at the crease.

However, his red-ball form is what has selectors talking. During the current Sheffield Shield season, Renshaw has been in elite form, racking up 499 runs with an impressive average of 49.90. With three centuries already under his belt, he is the leading candidate to fill the gap in the middle order following the retirement of veteran Usman Khawaja.

As Australia prepares for a busy winter schedule, including white-ball tours to Pakistan and a home Test series against Bangladesh in August, Renshaw is ready for the challenge. By staying consistent across all versions of the game, he hopes to prove he is the reliable anchor Australia needs for the long-form battles ahead in Darwin and Mackay.

Cricket stars honor India's great brave martyrs

NEW DELHI

On the solemn occasion of Shaheed Diwas, Indian cricket icons Gautam Gambhir and Shikhar Dhawan joined the nation in paying emotional tributes to freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru. The day marks the anniversary of their 1931 execution, a moment that forever changed the course of India's struggle for independence.

Gautam Gambhir took to social media to praise the "fearless spirit" of Bhagat Singh, noting that even the threat of death could not make the revolutionary compromise his values. "That's Sardar Bhagat Singh!" Gambhir wrote, calling him a timeless icon for every generation. Similarly, Shikhar Dhawan shared a heartfelt message in Hindi, stating that the courage and ultimate sacrifice of the three martyrs would continue to inspire the country forever.

History remembers these three heroes as members of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. They famously stood against British oppression following the death of leader Lala Lajpat Rai. Their bold actions, including the 1928 protest and throwing non-lethal bombs in the Central Assembly, were designed to wake up a sleeping nation.

They believed their arrest and sacrifice would spark a massive fire of resistance against colonial rule.

These tributes from sporting legends reflect a deep national respect. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also joined in honoring the trio, ensuring their legacy of patriotism remains a guiding light. For millions of fans, seeing their cricket heroes pause to remember the past serves as a powerful reminder of the high price paid for India's freedom.

Ponting tells Punjab Kings to play fearless

NEW DELHI

Punjab Kings head coach Ricky Ponting has delivered a powerful message to his squad ahead of the IPL 2026 season: don't be afraid to fail. Speaking at the team's training camp in Mullanpur, the Australian legend emphasized that making mistakes is a natural part of cricket, provided players stay true to their tactical plans.

For Ponting, the focus right now isn't on the scoreboard, but on preparation. He urged his players to use the current training sessions to sharpen their physical and mental readiness. "Mistakes come, we all make mistakes," Ponting told the group. He explained that if a player fails while following the agreed-upon strategy, it shouldn't be seen as a blunder, but simply as "part of the game." This approach aims to remove the fear of failure that often haunts teams in high-pressure tournaments.

The camp saw a mix of old and new faces, with Ponting welcoming fresh signings like Ben Dwarshuis and Vishal.

India strikes gold as Anuhith Gosala crowns global Esports games

MUMBAI

In a historic night for Indian gaming, Anuhith Gosala clinched the Clash Royale gold medal at the Global Esports Games, securing a World Championship title on home soil. Playing before a roaring Mumbai crowd, Gosala defeated Kazakhstan's Miras in a heart-stopping 3-2 grand final that went down to the wire.

The path to gold was a masterclass in resilience. Earlier in the tournament, Kazakhstan had sent India to the lower bracket with a 2-0 sweep. However, Gosala battled back, eliminating the USA 2-1 to earn a rematch in the finals. With the pressure of a home audience on his shoulders, Gosala flipped the script, overcoming his previous loss to Miras to stand atop the podium.

More Medals for Team India

The success wasn't limited to Clash Royale. India also made their mark in DOTA 2, securing a bronze medal after a tough battle against Mongolia in the lower bracket finals. Turkiye ultimately took the DOTA 2 gold, defeating Mongolia 3-1 in the final.

A Milestone for Mumbai

Paul J. Foster, CEO of the Global Esports Federation, praised Mumbai for its "exceptional energy and hospitality," noting that the event has solidified India's position as a powerhouse in the global esports and AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics) ecosystem. This double-medal finish marks one of India's most successful outings in international esports, proving that the country's players are ready to dominate the world stage.

QUICK READ

New platform makes buying digital gold easy

New Delhi
Investing in gold just got a high-tech upgrade. The World Gold Council launched its "Gold as a Service" platform, designed to make digital gold safer and more accessible for everyone. By linking physical gold reserves with digital systems, the platform simplifies how gold is stored and traded. This new model allows fintech apps and banks to offer gold savings and micro-investments to millions of Indians. Experts say this move will modernize the market, building trust and allowing even small-scale investors to grow their wealth through secure, digital gold products.

India's corporate giants plan massive investment surge

New Delhi
India Inc is gearing up for a historic growth spurt, planning a massive capital expenditure of over ₹11 lakh crore for the 2026 fiscal year. Data from the National Statistical Office reveals that businesses are successfully following through on their growth promises, with a record 96.3% of last year's investment plans already completed. Most companies are using their own profits to fund these upgrades, focusing heavily on green energy, robotics, and new technology. This wave of spending signals immense corporate confidence, with even higher investments already projected for 2027 to keep India's economy charging ahead.

Delhi govt schools hit record high in Class 12 exams

New Delhi
Delhi's government schools have achieved stunning success, posting a record 98.3% pass rate for Class 12 students. According to the latest Economic Survey, Class 10 results were equally strong at 97.7%. With 1,270 schools serving nearly 40% of the city's students, the government is now launching 75 "CM SHRI" schools to further modernize education. Beyond the classroom, Delhi's social safety net remains robust. Welfare programs currently support over 4 lakh seniors and distressed women, while the public ration system provides essential food to 72 lakh residents, ensuring that the city's growth reaches everyone.

Gold, silver prices tumble as markets react to Iran strike pause

New Delhi
Gold and silver prices saw a sharp decline as investors rushed to take profits amid a strengthening US dollar. On the MCX, gold futures dropped nearly 7% to ₹1,34,506, while silver fell over 8%. Global tensions, particularly the ongoing conflict near the Strait of Hormuz and rising oil costs, have rattled the markets. Despite the dip, financial experts are urging investors to stay calm. They suggest that this market correction is actually a good opportunity to buy more bullion at lower rates or continue regular monthly investment plans.

New digital portal cleans up rural audits

India embraces digital transformation with the new Internal Audit Portal, enhancing rural fund transparency, real-time tracking, and efficient government oversight nationwide.

NEW DELHI

Internal Audit Portal
Shri Shailesh Kumar Singh

India is officially trading dusty stacks of paperwork for a sleek digital future. The Ministry of Rural Development launched its new Internal Audit Portal, a high-tech tool designed to change how the government tracks public spending in our villages.

For years, checking how rural funds were used involved slow, manual tracking. This new system, built by the National Informatics Centre, changes the game by offering real-time updates. Now, officials can monitor every audit across the country from one central screen. Shailesh Kumar Singh, Secretary of the Ministry, noted that this move will strengthen oversight and ensure that any issues found during audits are fixed without delay.

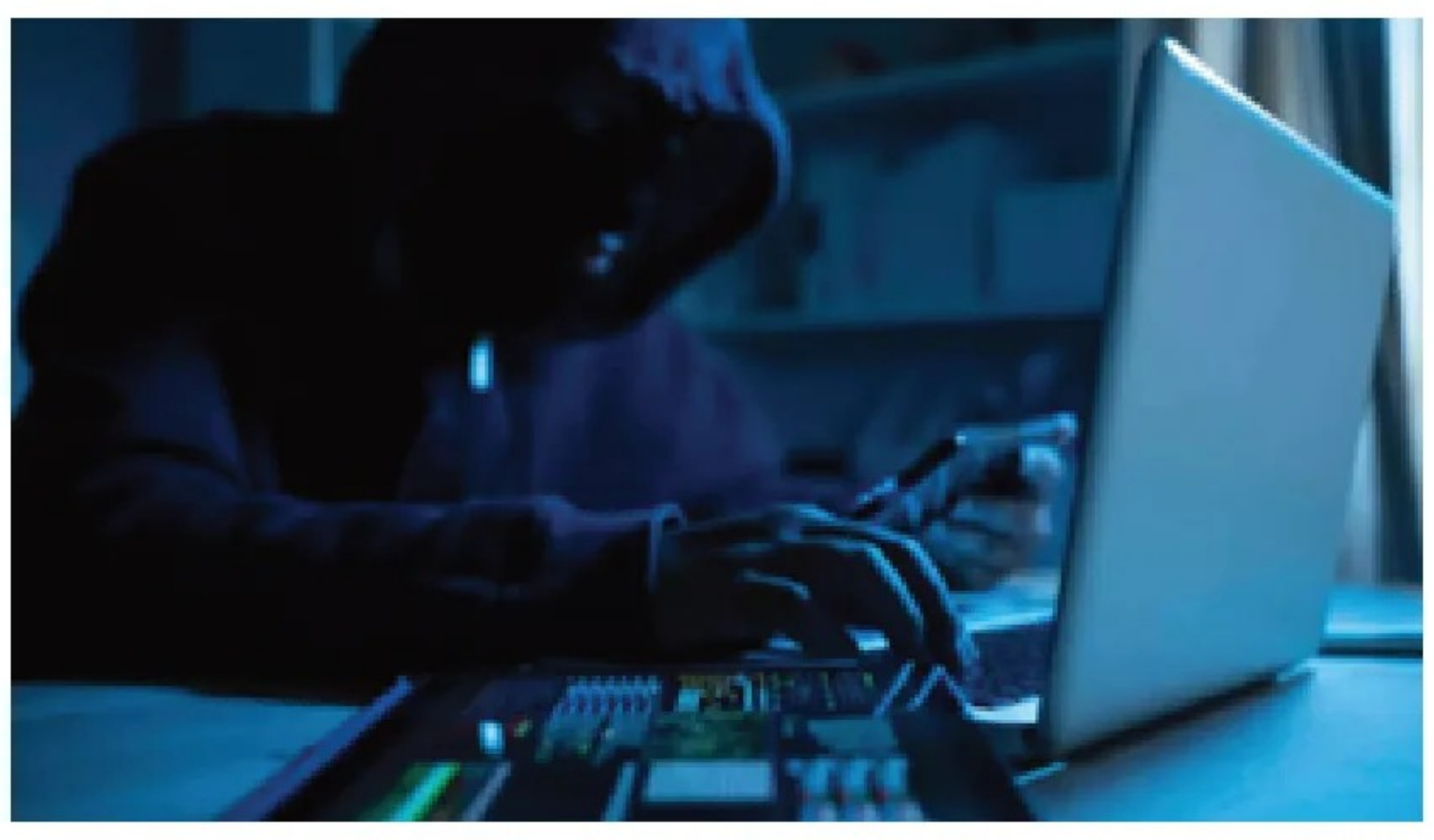
The portal isn't just a digital filing cabinet; it acts like a smart assistant. It features a "dashboard" for quick viewing and an "escalation tool" that automatically flags delays if a project falls behind. To keep things safe, only authorized staff can access sensitive data, making the whole process secure yet collaborative.

The goal is simple: make sure every rupee meant for rural development actually reaches its destination. By reducing mistakes and closing gaps in reporting, the government hopes to manage resources better and boost public trust. Senior officials believe this shift will lead to smarter, data-driven decisions for the nation's growth.

This transition marks a major win for transparency. By moving away from slow paperwork and embracing instant digital tracking, India is ensuring that rural progress is faster, cleaner, and much more accountable.

Digital thieves target hospitals, local factories

NEW DELHI



A new report reveals India's healthcare, schools, and factories face massive cyberattacks, urging real-time monitoring, stronger security, and staff training to protect critical data and public trust.

A chilling new report reveals that India's healthcare, schools, and factories are now the primary targets for cybercriminals. Between late 2024 and late 2025, these three sectors faced nearly half of all digital attacks in the country, according to security experts at Seqrite.

Hospitals were hit the hardest, facing over 3.7 million individual threats. Unlike a stolen credit card, a patient's medical history or diagnostic report cannot simply be "reset."

This makes healthcare data incredibly valuable for hackers looking to blackmail victims or commit long-term identity fraud. Experts warn that these breaches do more than just steal data; they can delay life-saving surgeries, mess with lab results, and ruin years of expensive medical research.

The report found that most attackers used "Trojans"—hidden malicious software—to sneak into systems. While some hackers wanted quick cash through ransomware, others seemed interested in "espionage," specifically targeting pharmaceutical trials and secret research. Most of these digital break-ins happened through simple mistakes, like clicking on phishing emails, using pirated software, or leaving remote login services unprotected.

Because hospitals and factories run 24/7, they are "data-rich" targets that cannot afford to shut down. Security professionals are now urging organizations to move beyond basic passwords. They recommend real-time monitoring and better staff training to spot scams before they land. Ultimately, protecting this information isn't just about fixing computers; it is about saving lives and keeping the public's trust in our most vital institutions.

Two Indian ships carrying crucial LPG navigate the Strait of Hormuz, ensuring household fuel supplies amid regional tensions.

Indian gas ships brave tense sea route

NEW DELHI

Two Indian ships carrying vital cooking gas are currently navigating the risky Strait of Hormuz, bringing much-needed hope to millions of households back home.

The vessels, named Jag Vasant and Pine Gas, began their journey from the UAE coast after receiving special approval to pass through the heavily guarded waterway.

For weeks, India has faced growing concerns over fuel shortages due to rising regional conflicts. Following recent military strikes in February, Iran restricted most travel through the Strait, which is a global chokepoint for oil and gas. However, after successful high-level negotiations, India became one of the few nations allowed to move its cargo through these sensitive waters.

To stay safe, the ships are sailing close to Iran's Qeshm and Larak islands, clearly signaling their Indian ownership to avoid any misunderstandings. This specific path is considered safer than the usual routes near Oman, where other vessels have recently faced attacks. The entire journey through the narrow strait typically takes about 14 hours, and both ships are expected to reach the calmer Gulf of Oman.

These two ships had been stranded since late February, unable to deliver their heavy loads of LPG

from Kuwait and the UAE. Their successful movement follows two other Indian tankers that made it home safely earlier this month. This careful diplomatic balancing act ensures that kitchens across India stay running, proving that even in times of global tension, vital supplies can still find a way through.

Enough fertilizers available for farming: Modi

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reassured the nation that India has secured more than enough fertilizer to support farmers during the upcoming Kharif season. Speaking in Parliament, the Prime Minister explained that the government has successfully diversified where it buys these supplies from while also boosting local production through the "Make in India" initiative.

The Prime Minister emphasized that these steady stocks are vital for the country's food security. To further help those in the fields, the government has already provided over 22 lakh solar pumps. This move is designed to help farmers save money by reducing their daily reliance on expensive diesel fuel. Energy independence was another major highlight of the address. Thanks to the success of blending ethanol into fuel, India now avoids importing 4.5 crore barrels of oil every year. This shift is significantly easing the pressure on the national economy. Additionally, the government has rolled out 15,000 electric buses to various states to promote cleaner, sustainable city transport.

Despite the ongoing crisis in West Asia, the Prime Minister assured citizens that the government is working hard to prevent energy shortages. High-level committees are currently finding new sources for chemicals and medicines while ensuring power plants have plenty of coal. By focusing on renewable energy and smarter import strategies, India is building a shield against global supply problems.

INDIA FINALLY BECOMES A POWER SURPLUS NATION

NEW DELHI

India has officially reached a major milestone in its journey toward modern development. The government informed Parliament that the country is now power-sufficient, boasting a massive electricity generation capacity of 524 GW as of February 2026.

This achievement marks a historic shift from the frequent power shortages that plagued the nation in previous decades.

Minister of State for Power, Shripad Naik, highlighted that India has added over 296 GW of new capacity since 2014. This rapid growth has allowed the electricity supply to finally keep pace with the rising national demand. While some areas still experience occasional outages, the Minister clarified that these are usually due to local technical issues in state distribution networks rather than a lack of actual power.

To reach this goal, the Central Government launched several major projects aimed at lighting up both rural villages and crowded cities. Programs like "Saubhagya" and the "Gram Jyoti Yojana" have been instrumental in building the wires and stations needed to bring electricity to the furthest corners of the country.

The future looks even brighter. According to the National Electricity Plan, India aims to increase its capacity to 874 GW by the year 2032. States are now being asked to plan ahead to ensure they stay one step ahead of growing energy needs. This progress ensures a more reliable life for households and a stronger backbone for industries, fueling India's economic growth for years to come.

EPFO to automatically pay out unclaimed cash

NEW DELHI

ईपीएफओ काम्प्लेक्स
EPFO COMPLEX
श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SECTOR 23, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is launching a massive digital cleanup to return forgotten money to workers.

The reports confirmed a new automated system will soon send balances from inactive accounts directly into subscribers' Aadhaar-linked bank accounts. This means thousands of people will receive their rightful savings without ever having to file a single piece of paper.

In this first major phase, the EPFO plans to settle about 8 lakh accounts, worth an estimated Rs 5,200 crore. The range of savings is significant: while many accounts are small, nearly 14,000 hold over Rs 5 lakh each, and another 38,000 contain between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 5 lakh. By using automation, the government aims to clear the massive backlog of "dormant" accounts that have stopped earning interest.

Currently, an account is labeled inactive if no new money is added for three years after a member turns 55. As of last month, the EPFO was sitting on over 31 lakh such accounts, totaling a staggering Rs 10,181 crore. Some of these deposits have been untouched for over 20 years.

By skipping the traditional claim process, the EPFO is making it easier for retirees and former employees to access their hard-earned money. This shift not only reduces stress for citizens but also improves transparency within the system. With an interest rate of 8.25 percent held steady for another year, the move ensures that these long-held funds finally reach their owners' pockets.

INDIA ENERGY RESERVES

India safeguards energy with massive oil reserves

NEW DELHI

India is reinforcing its energy shield to protect against global supply shocks. The government informed Parliament that the nation currently holds approximately 3.372 million metric tonnes of crude oil in its strategic reserves. This represents about 64% of the country's total storage capacity, serving as a vital buffer during uncertain times.

These massive reserves are managed by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited and are tucked away in specialized coastal facilities across Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. With a total capacity of 5.33 million metric tonnes, these sites act like a national savings account for fuel, ensuring the country doesn't run dry if international trade routes are blocked.

Minister Suresh Gopi explained that while stock levels fluctuate based on market demand, the government is already planning to double its safety net. Two new storage sites in Odisha and Karnataka were recently approved, which will add another 6.5 million metric tonnes of capacity.

To further reduce risk, India has aggressively changed where it buys its oil. While the Middle East remains important, India now imports crude from 41 different countries, including Brazil, Canada, and the USA. In fact, nearly 70 percent of India's oil now comes from outside the Gulf region. This diversification is a direct response to tensions in areas like the Strait of Hormuz. By storing millions of tonnes of oil and buying from every corner of the globe, India is ensuring that its economy stays fueled and stable.

Clean cooking gas reaches nearly every home

NEW DELHI

India has achieved a historic milestone in public health and convenience, with clean cooking gas now reaching nearly every household across the nation. The Parliament was informed that the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) has successfully expanded to include approximately 10.56 crore connections as of March 1, 2026.

This massive rollout has transformed lives, especially for women in rural areas who previously relied on smoky, unhealthy firewood. Before this program began, only about 62 percent of Indian homes had access to LPG. In states like Maharashtra and Gujarat, millions of families have made the switch, supported by a government approval for an additional 25 lakh connections this year to clear any remaining waiting lists.

It isn't just about handing out cylinders; it's about making sure people actually use them. Data shows that families are refilling their tanks more often, jumping from roughly three refills a year to nearly five. To keep costs down for poor families, the government provides a direct subsidy of Rs. 300 per cylinder.

Kohli reflects on emotional long awaited victory

Virat Kohli reflects on Royal Challengers Bengaluru's historic triumph, ending eighteen years of heartbreak and igniting new ambitions

BENGALURU

After eighteen years of waiting, Virat Kohli is finally opening up about the night Royal Challengers Bengaluru touched the sky. Following their historic win against Punjab Kings last season, the cricket icon described the triumph as the emotional end to a nearly two-decade journey with the same franchise.

Kohli, who has been with the team since the very first day in 2008, admitted that past failures actually helped them win.

He explained that the "history of near misses" gave the players extra motivation to stay calm when the pressure was highest. Instead of feeling scared of losing again, the team used those old heartbreaks as fuel to hold their nerve during the final overs of the big game.

"It was a sense of calm confidence," Kohli said, reflecting on the atmosphere in the locker room.

He noted that reaching the final wasn't a fluke; they had earned their spot by beating the best. As the match came to an end, Kohli felt eighteen years of ups and downs flash before his eyes. He described the final three balls of the game as the toughest to watch, praying for a perfect finish.

Now entering his 19th season, the league's all-time leading scorer with 8,661 runs is hungry for more. With eight centuries already in his career, Kohli hopes to turn this new chapter into another golden era for the defending champions and their loyal fans.

Jaipur Polo Team wins Eleventh season title

NEW DELHI

The Jaipur Optiemus Achievers once again proved their dominance on the grass, defeating Jindal Panther 12–9 to claim the prestigious Indian Open Polo Championship. This thrilling victory marks the team's eleventh title in what has become an extraordinary and record-breaking season for the Jaipur squad.

The star of the show was Alejo Aramburu, who delivered a sensational performance by scoring eight of his team's twelve goals. Jaipur started strong, ending the first period with a 4–2 lead thanks to quick strikes from Aramburu and Maharaja Sawai Padmanabh Singh. By halftime, their disciplined defense kept the Panthers quiet, stretching the lead to 5–2.

However, the game turned into a nail-biter during the third and fourth periods. Jindal Panther, led by the determined Juan Gris Zavaletta, fought back fiercely to close the gap to just one goal. With the score sitting at 8–7, the match was anyone's to win.

In the final moments, Jaipur's experience shone through. Aramburu found the posts again, and the team's cohesive play helped them pull away to an 11–8 cushion. Despite a late goal from the opposition, Jaipur stayed composed to finish the match 12–9. This win solidifies their reputation as the team to beat this year, combining attacking precision with incredible pressure. For the fans in New Delhi, it was a masterclass in sportsmanship and skill, proving why Jaipur remains at the top of the polo world.

Jaipur Optiemus Achievers clinched their eleventh Indian Open Polo title, with Alejo Aramburu's stellar eight-goal performance sealing a thrilling 12–9 victory over Jindal Panther

Sanchez double fires Bengaluru to big victory

KOLKATA

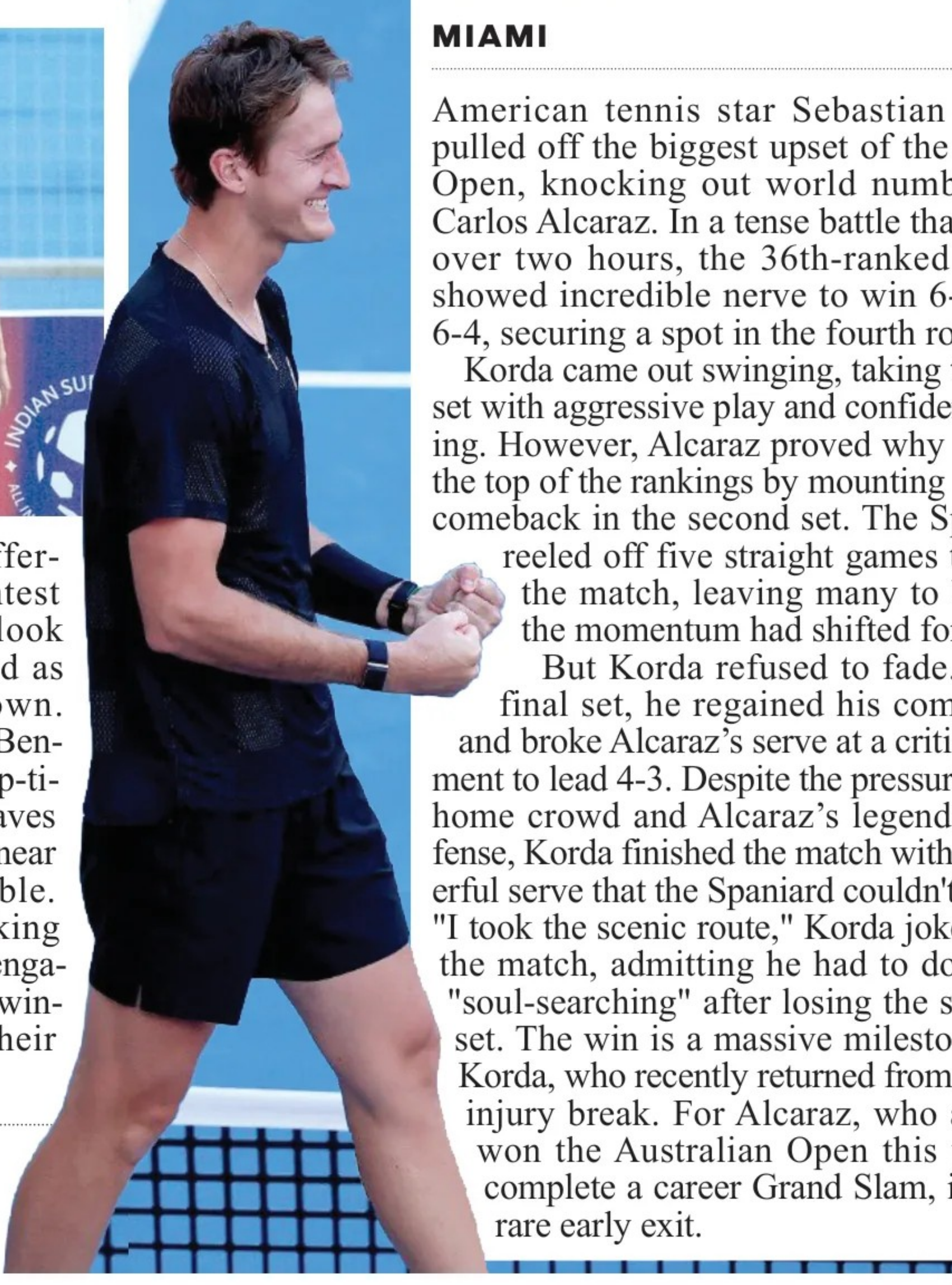
A masterclass from Braian Sanchez propelled Bengaluru FC to a convincing 3-1 win over Inter Kashi in their Indian Super League clash. Playing at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan, the visitors relied on a dominant second-half display to secure three vital points and climb to fourth in the league standings.

The match began with high energy as Bengaluru's Ashique Kuruniyan broke the deadlock in the 20th minute. After dispossessing the opposition captain, Kuruniyan unleashed a powerful strike to put his side ahead. However, Inter Kashi refused to back down before the break. Alfred Planas found the equalizer in the 38th minute, sending both teams into the locker rooms tied at 1-1.

The second half belonged entirely to Sanchez. The turning point arrived in the 69th minute when he capitalized on a goalkeeping blunder to head the ball home, restoring Bengaluru's lead. While Inter Kashi fought desperately to find another equalizer, their efforts were thwarted by a disciplined Bengaluru defense. Deep into stoppage time, Sanchez struck again from long range following another defensive error, putting the result beyond doubt.

Named Player of the Match, Sanchez was the difference-maker in a contest that saw Bengaluru look increasingly organized as the clock ticked down. While the win boosts Bengaluru's hopes for a top-tier finish, the defeat leaves Inter Kashi struggling near the bottom of the table. Fans are already looking forward to seeing if Bengaluru can maintain this winning momentum in their next fixture.

Sebastian Korda stuns World Number One Alcaraz



MIAMI

American tennis star Sebastian Korda pulled off the biggest upset of the Miami Open, knocking out world number one Carlos Alcaraz. In a tense battle that lasted over two hours, the 36th-ranked Korda showed incredible nerve to win 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, securing a spot in the fourth round.

Korda came out swinging, taking the first set with aggressive play and confident serving. However, Alcaraz proved why he is at the top of the rankings by mounting a fierce comeback in the second set. The Spaniard reeled off five straight games to level the match, leaving many to believe the momentum had shifted for good.

But Korda refused to fade. In the final set, he regained his composure and broke Alcaraz's serve at a critical moment to lead 4-3. Despite the pressure of the home crowd and Alcaraz's legendary defense, Korda finished the match with a powerful serve that the Spaniard couldn't return. "I took the scenic route," Korda joked after the match, admitting he had to do some "soul-searching" after losing the second set. The win is a massive milestone for Korda, who recently returned from a long injury break. For Alcaraz, who already won the Australian Open this year to complete a career Grand Slam, it was a rare early exit.

Militant threats cast shadow over Cricket league

NEW DELHI

The upcoming Pakistan Super League (PSL) faces a grave crisis following a chilling warning from a militant group. Just days before the tournament's start, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, a dangerous faction, has urged international players to withdraw immediately. They claim the safety of overseas athletes "cannot be guaranteed" in the current volatile climate.

This threat comes at a time when Pakistan is already scaling back the event. Due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia and the need to save resources like fuel, the government previously ordered that matches be played behind closed doors. Now, the security situation has become the primary concern. The militant group stated that hosting a "festive spectacle" is a mockery while certain regions of the country face civil unrest and violence.

The 2026 PSL roster features major global stars, including Australia's David Warner and New Zealand's Devon Conway. While the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has put strict security protocols in place, the demand for players to quit has created an atmosphere of fear. The group warned that they would not allow the "lights of a stadium" to hide the political struggles of the oppressed.

With the first match scheduled for this Thursday, the cricketing world is watching closely. The PCB and international cricket bodies must now decide if the tournament can proceed safely. For the players, the choice is no longer just about the sport, but about their personal lives in a high-risk environment.

Hockey stars nominated for big annual awards

NEW DELHI

The stage is set to honor the finest athletes in Indian sports as Hockey India announced the nominees for its 8th Annual Awards. Scheduled for March 27 in the nation's capital, the gala will celebrate the incredible achievements and hard work of players who defined the past season.

The biggest buzz surrounds the "Player of the Year" categories for both men and women. A total of 32 elite athletes have been shortlisted across eight major categories, including specialized honors for the best goalkeepers, defenders, midfielders, and forwards. The committee is also shining a spotlight on the future by recognizing rising stars in the under-21 age group.

It has been a golden era for the national teams. The ceremony will specifically celebrate the senior men's team for their recent gold medal at the Asia Cup 2025, alongside the junior squad that secured a proud bronze at the Junior World Cup. It isn't just the players getting trophies; coaches, umpires, and technical staff will also be thanked for their behind-the-scenes dedication to the game.

Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey noted that these awards are about more than just winning—they are about the progress of the sport nationwide. Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh added that such recognition is vital for keeping players motivated for future international challenges.

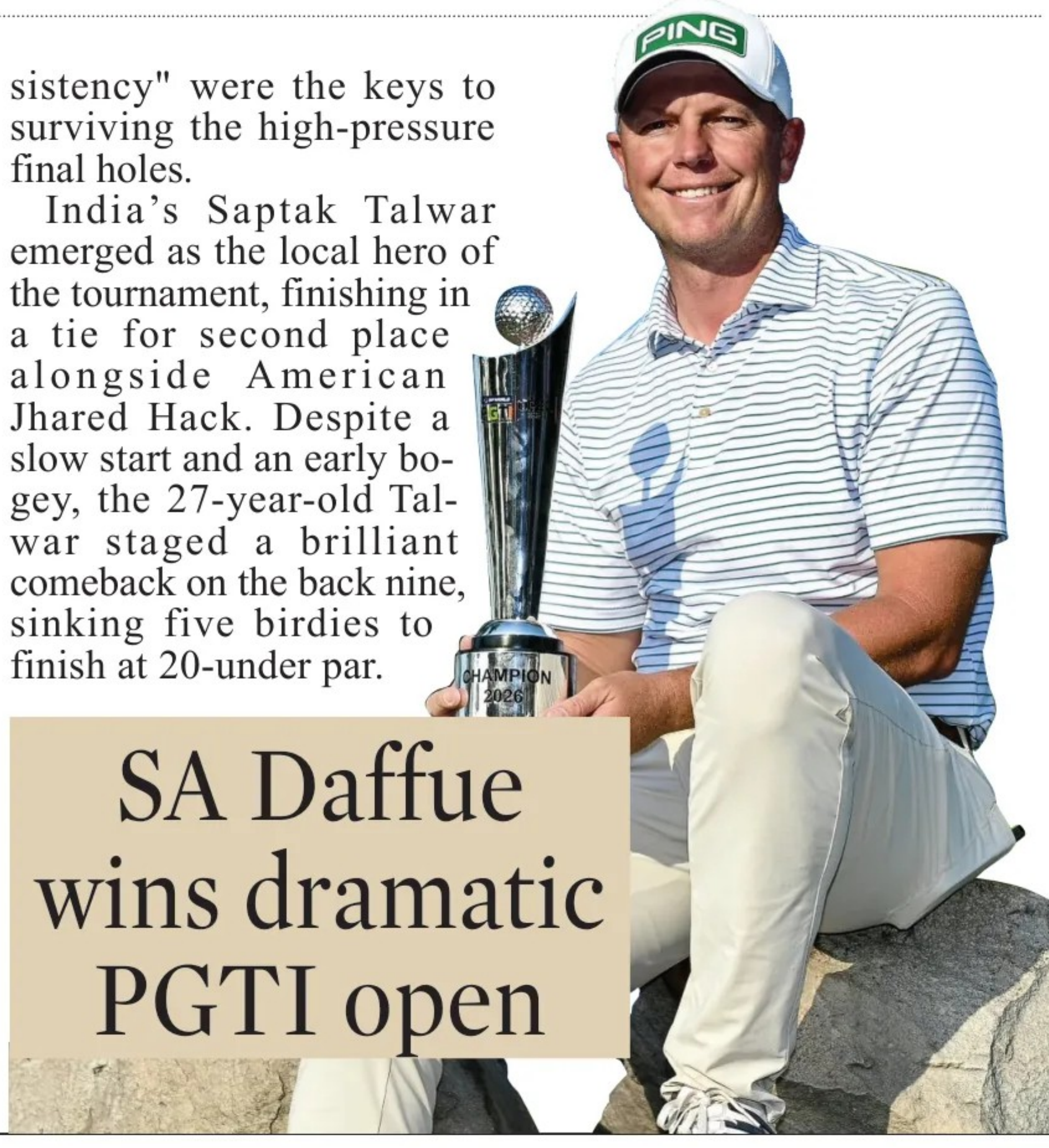
SA Daffue wins dramatic PGTI open

NUH

South African golfer MJ Daffue held his nerve to claim a thrilling victory at the 2026 PGTI Open. Finishing with a flawless, bogey-free round of 69, the 37-year-old secured the $300,000 title by just a single stroke. This win marks his second major trophy in only two months, catapulting him to the top of the international rankings.

Daffue started the final day with a comfortable four-shot lead but faced a tense battle as the gap narrowed. A crucial birdie on the ninth hole and a spectacular eagle on the 14th allowed him to finish at 21-under par. Credit for his calm demeanor went to his sports psychologist, as Daffue noted that "patience and consistency" were the keys to surviving the high-pressure final holes.

India's Saptak Talwar emerged as the local hero of the tournament, finishing in a tie for second place alongside American Jhared Hack. Despite a slow start and an early bogey, the 27-year-old Talwar staged a brilliant comeback on the back nine, sinking five birdies to finish at 20-under par.



Dion Nash quits over New Cricket league

NEW DELHI

Former Black Caps star Dion Nash has resigned from the New Zealand Cricket (NZC) board following a major disagreement over the future of the sport. His departure came shortly after the board voted to move forward with a new franchise-style tournament called "NZ20" instead of joining Australia's Big Bash League.

The decision marks a massive shift for New Zealand's domestic cricket. For months, leaders were torn between two paths: starting their own private league to attract global investors or placing a New Zealand team in the established Australian competition. While some officials believed joining the Big Bash was the safer bet, the board ultimately gave "in-principle" support to the NZ20 model.

Nash, who joined the board in 2024, admitted he could no longer support the direction the leadership was taking. "I reached a point where I felt it was the right time to step aside," he stated, highlighting a growing rift within the organization. He is not the first to leave; former chief executive Scott Weenink resigned last December, also citing differences over this exact strategy.

Top Indian Chess Star withdraws over safety

NEW DELHI

India's premier chess talent, Grandmaster Koneru Humpy, has officially pulled out of the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament. Citing serious concerns for her personal safety, Humpy decided to skip the event just days before its March 28 start in Cyprus.

The tournament is a major milestone where eight elite players compete for a chance at the world title. However, Humpy expressed that the current tensions in West Asia made her feel insecure. Despite receiving safety guarantees from the organizers, she felt the environment was too risky for a world-class competition. "No event is more important than personal well-being," she shared on social media, describing her choice as both painful and necessary.

Humpy's departure is a significant blow to India's hopes, as she has long been a top contender on the global stage. Following her exit, FIDE announced that Ukrainian Grandmaster Anna Muzychuk will step in to fill the vacancy. While other players like Hikaru Nakamura have also raised concerns about local infrastructure and power outages, Humpy is the only participant to withdraw so far.

India will still be represented in the women's category by Vaishali Rameshbabu and Divya Deshmukh. While fans are disappointed to miss Humpy's calm and steady play, many have voiced their support for her brave decision to prioritize her health and peace of mind over a trophy.

Arundhati Reddy crowned ICC player of month

DUBAI

Indian fast bowler Arundhati Reddy has achieved a career milestone by being named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for February 2026. This prestigious honor follows her spectacular performance in Australia, where her lethal bowling helped India secure a historic T20 series victory on foreign soil.

The 28-year-old seamer was the standout star of the three-match series, finishing as the leading wicket-taker with eight scalps. Her precision was on full display in the opening game in Sydney, where she snatched a career-best 4/22. She continued her dominance in Canberra and Adelaide, maintaining an impressive average of 10.87. This 2-1 series win marks India's first T20 trophy in Australia since 2016, providing a massive confidence boost for the squad.

"Beating Australia on their home turf is never easy," Reddy remarked, dedicating the award to her teammates. She believes this victory proves that India will be the team to watch during the upcoming T20 World Cup in England this summer. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur will continue to lean on Reddy's consistency as the team prepares for a five-match series in South Africa starting April 17.

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